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New Crisis for Mexico as Leading Candidate Is Slain

By Tod Robberson

Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — Mexico grappled with a growing political crisis Thursday as the nation mourned the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, the ruling party's candidate to succeed President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Mr. Colosio, 44, shot to death Wednesday afternoon while campaigning in Tijuana, had been almost certain to assume the presidency later this year under Mexico's political system, in which the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party has held uninterrupted reign over federal, state and local governments for 65 years.

Because it occurred in the final months of Mr. Salinas' six-year term — and because Mr. Colosio's ascension to the presidency was virtually assured — the killing carried almost the same weight as if the president himself had been the assassin's target.

"This is a national nightmare," said an announcer on Mexico City's Radin Mil network. [The suspected assassin was identified as Mario Aburto Martinez of Tijuana. Attorney General Diego Valades said Thursday that Mr. Aburto admitted he was the killer. Reuters reported from Mexico City.]

[He said Mr. Aburto told investigators he had bought the Brazilian-made .38-caliber handgun used in the assassination several weeks ago with the intention of killing Mr. Colosio. Mr. Aburto reportedly told the authorities he was a pacifist and had written books about pacifism.]

[The weapon was reported by U.S. officials Thursday to have been originally purchased by a man in San Francisco in 1977. They said they were seeking the man in order to determine how and when the gun reached Mexico.]

The candidate's death threatened to send shock waves through Mexican financial markets at a time when international investors were looking forward to a seamless transition of power and the continuation of economic reforms engineered by Mr. Salinas.

In order to avert a potential financial crash Thursday, Mr. Salinas ordered the stock market, banks and currency exchange houses closed to prevent a sudden run on dollars.

With Mr. Colosio out of the picture, Mr. Salinas and the party leadership have suddenly been thrust into a crisis-management mode. The party executive committee held an emergency meeting Thursday morning. Traditionally, however, it has been the incumbent president's prerogative to name his successor.

The party's acceptance of the president's dictates on candidate choices has given rise to criticism, particularly among opposition parties, that Mexico's political system is anti-democratic. Underneath that is the absence of a runner-up candidate to take Mr. Colosio's place — because there was never a list of candidates presented for a vote within the party.

Diplomats said that while Mr. Colosio's death has thrown the political system into crisis, it could have the effect of democratizing the

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Members of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party carrying the coffin of Luis Donaldo Colosio to a hearse in Tijuana for the flight to Mexico City.

Assassination Shakes World Markets and Dollar

By Lawrence Malkin

International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — The assassination of Mexico's leading presidential candidate shook the world's already nervous financial markets Thursday, but President Bill Clinton offered help in stabilizing the peso while financial and political analysts said the long-term outlook for the country was still good.

Markets in Mexico were shut down for the day following Wednesday night's shooting of Luis Donaldo Colosio in Tijuana.

Telephones of Mexico traded off 6 percent on Wall Street, and other Mexican blue chips were

off somewhat less, but the principal market focus will not be on the Mexico City's bolsa when it reopens but on Mexico's currency.

Fears that foreign investors would pull their money out of Mexico exaggerated the pressure on the dollar, which was already trading anxiously because of the upward trend in short-term interest rates and Wednesday's quarter-point rise in U.S. banks' prime rates. (Page 11)

On Wall Street, worries about interest rates joined geopolitical concerns ranging from North Korea in Russia to Mexico City in pull down long bond prices and push up bond yields. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond

closed with a yield of 6.95 percent, higher than before the Fed tightened credit on Tuesday.

The bearish bond markets pulled down stocks on Thursday, and the Dow Jones industrial index closed 48.37 points weaker at 3,821.09.

In the medium term, both Washington and Wall Street expected jittery and volatile markets in Mexico through much of the spring and summer until the August presidential elections, but few found that cause for alarm.

The first and probably the most important financial test for the Mexican government will

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Dow Jones		Trib Index	
Down	48.37	Down	0.30%
	3,821.09		112.63
The Dollar			
	Thurs. close		previous close
DM	1.668		1.6815
Pound	1.4975		1.4975
Yen	104.55		106.325
FF	5.7038		5.745

For UN Force in Mogadishu, the Comforts of Home

By Rick Atkinson

Washington Post Service

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Street lights burn brightly again here, although the city has been without an electrical grid for three years.

Roads are again being paved, although the city's public works department has long since vanished.

Houses are again being built; a suburban development of 100 homes is taking shape with sewer, water, telephone and power connections.

Yet, all these trappings of civilization — from chilled chocolate milk to don't-drink-and-drive signs — remain within the fortified 32-hectare (80-acre) compound of the United Nations Operation in Somalia, from which almost all of Somalia's 9 million people are excluded at gunpoint.

The United Nations plans to spend roughly \$1.6 billion on its military mission here over a 19-month period ending in December, while its humanitarian aid program for Somalis seems stalled. Of the money devoted to the military, officials here estimate that only \$72 million — 4 percent — will work its way into the Somali economy.

Even as the UN military command here is disbursing money — mostly to foreign con-



U.S. Marines waiting on Somalia beach Thursday to be transported to their ship.

tractors and military contingents — to build its compound with Western-style comforts, planners are considering how best to abandon what they have built in anticipation that the UN mandate in Somalia will expire a year from now.

"The truth is that in the Unosom peace-keeping budget there is no provision for hu-

manitarian expenditures," said a senior UN force official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified. "We're not into repairing mosques and schools and that sort of thing. Economic and social development in Somalia is not our business, and it never has been."

"That's the task of the humanitarian side of the UN," the official added. "We came here to protect them, to enable them to get on with the job. But that's been difficult. It hasn't happened."

The budget for the UN force here for Nov. 1 to May 31 is \$639 million, according to UN figures. That comes atop about \$500 million spent from the beginning of the operation in May 1993 through last October; planners here expect another \$500 million to carry them through the second half of 1994.

Richard W. Bogosian, the senior U.S. diplomat in Somalia, said that the UN Operation in Somalia could be criticized "for gold-plating the compound in some ways."

"But in another sense," he said, "it's not really fair, because it's hard enough to attract people to come work here. It's not really that so much has been done here in the compound; it's that so little has been done elsewhere."

Still, Mr. Bogosian added, "I'm not certain

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Only Serious Proposals, Kantor Tells Japanese

Tokyo Is Preparing Open-Market Plan

By Thomas L. Friedman

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade representative, Mickey Kantor, urged Japan on Thursday to be as forthcoming as possible in the proposal it is about to make to break the trade deadlock with Washington, because otherwise the United States will resort to more punitive sanctions to open Japanese markets.

"We have been encouraging them to come up with as bold and far-reaching a package as possible," Mr. Kantor said. "I met with the Japanese press twice this week to convey that view. It cannot be the same old story. Otherwise, we will have disappointment here and a continuation of our approach of ratcheting up the pressure on Japan."

The top government spokesman in Japan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, said Thursday that Tokyo was likely to announce by Tuesday a package of measures it is prepared to take on its own to satisfy American demands to open closed Japanese markets in autos, auto parts, telecommunications, insurance and medical equipment.

U.S. officials said that in the past few weeks a succession of Japanese "special envoys," "secret envoys," "personal envoys" "private envoys" and "self-appointed envoys" from the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Japanese parliament have trooped through Washington trying to gauge the bare minimum the government would accept in order to defuse the trade crisis.

The Japanese appear deeply distressed at the high value of the yen against the dollar now and at the nervousness of the Japanese stock market. U.S. officials said Japan seems to be striving for a proposal that will be just enough to bring down the yen and soothe the stock market, but will not require deep concessions.

The Japanese, some U.S. officials said, have

been conditioned for many years to believe that in negotiations with the United States, Tokyo can engage in commerce while Washington will engage in diplomacy. That is, the Japanese can focus on economic interests, while the United States can be counted on to worry about the wider aspects of the relationship, such as security ties or cooperation over Korea.

The officials said the Japanese hold the view that President Bill Clinton really does not have the stomach for a further confrontation with them on trade and will look for a fig leaf to get out of the current impasse.

Think again, said Mr. Kantor.

If that is Tokyo's view today, he said in an interview, the Japanese had better reconsider it before they come forward with their unilateral offer.

Mr. Kantor said Mr. Clinton had made "the firm decision" that he would open Japanese markets, either through negotiations, which up to now have failed, "or on a bilateral basis using our trade laws."

If the Japanese produce something bold, Mr. Kantor said, the government will be ready to resume negotiations. If they come up with something less than that, the United States will resume its efforts to open Japanese markets by relying on the various trade levers in its arsenal.

U.S. officials said there were a number of United States-Japan trade agreements — those governing wood products, glass, computers and paper in particular — in which the Japanese appear to be in violation. In each one of these areas, the United States market share in Japan has been going down rather than up. In each case, Japanese non-compliance could be met with punitive tariffs being slapped on Japanese exports, the U.S. officials said.

"We could pick anyone and begin to react," a U.S. trade official said.

It was such a threat that last week prompted

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Berlusconi Keeps Promising 'New Italian Miracle'

By Alan Cowell

New York Times Service

ROME — The candidate had been touching the bases — the soccer set in Milan, the disco set in Rome, the homemakers, the aristocrats, the chief rabbi. Then, last weekend, he traveled to Palermo to take on the mob, his message relayed by television hookup to piazzas across Italy.

But before he threw down his gauntlet to the Mafia, Silvio Berlusconi, the most packaged and most talked about of the candidates for

Italy's watershed election this weekend — and some would say its most likely winner — wanted to tell his audience what they wanted to hear after years as Italy's economic orphan.

Their rapturous response confirmed that after two years of corruption scandals and soul-searching over their country's future, Italy has produced as a standard-bearer of renewal, a man whose close business associates — indeed his own brother — are under investigation for corruption and who has been assailed by his adversaries as the Mafia's choice. Not only does Mr. Berlusconi deny such allegations, but he

has somehow turned his swashbuckling business ventures in the '80s into credentials for leadership in the '90s.

"I'm here to give my solidarity in Palermo, to Sicily, to the South," he said in a voice that is part game show host, part television evangelist, clutching a microphone to his chest as he strolled a stage beneath a huge televised image of himself against a sky-blue backdrop. "We are going to put Italy on the road to recovery and I'm convinced that this will only happen if

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So Much Money in the Bank, So Little Time to Give It All Away

By N.R. Kleinfield

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Irene Diamond has \$60 million and less than three years to get rid of it.

Of course, everyone should have her problem. Such charming circumstances make her limitlessly popular. Scarcely a day goes by that supplicants don't write or call beseeching her for money.

Ms. Diamond, the widow of Aaron Diamond, a millionaire builder, is now final arbiter of the work of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, which a decade ago chartered an unorthodox destiny for itself.

Unlike most foundations, which seek to exist in perpet-

ity, annually distributing just a small percentage of their wealth and thus never dulling their philanthropic glow, the Diamond Foundation chose to have a constricted but lively life.

Once it had received its major financing of \$150 million from Mr. Diamond's estate, which came by the beginning of 1987, it was to give away all the money in 10 years and then go out of business.

"Most foundations spend very little of their money," Ms. Diamond said. "They're almost in the investment business. That wasn't our style."

This puts the deadline at the end of 1996. The clock ticks

away. There are about 1,000 days left. That computes to \$60,000 a day. The checks better get in the mail.

"It's interesting," Ms. Diamond said. "There's no trouble finding places for the money. I only wish I had four times as much. If I can help it, there won't be a penny left."

The calls for aid do pour in. "There is an acceleration of requests recently to get the last of it," said Vincent McGee, the foundation's executive director. "We get out of the blue: 'We know you're going out of business, how about an endowment grant?'"

The pleas for money now number 1,500 a year. The answer has been yes to organizations like the AIDS Action Foundation, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, the

Chinatown History Museum and the Dance Theater of Harlem.

The answer in about 1,200 cases is a polite no. "It's a difficult moral situation in the office," Mr. McGee acknowledged, "because we're mostly saying no these days."

Irene Diamond is a small, gracious, chirpy woman slowed perhaps no more than a half-step at the age of 83. She very much runs the rather lean foundation — just 11 staff members in a suite of offices by Radin City Music Hall — but happily tolerates discord.

She was once outvoted 9 to 1 by the foundation board on a

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Kiosk

Serbs in Bosnia Shun Federation

PALE, Bosnia (Reuters) — The parliament of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic voted Thursday not to join a new federation of Croats and Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic.

In a statement, the assembly said that because it had already voted for an independent Serbian republic, it could not join the new federation, which has been agreed to as a result of a U.S.-Russian initiative.

Book Review Bridge Page 8, Page 8.

Newsstand Prices

Andorra.....9.00 FF	Luxembourg 60 L. Fr
Antilles.....11.20 FF	Morocco.....12 Dh
Cameroon.....1.40 CFA	Qatar.....8.00 Rials
Egypt.....E.P. 5000	Réunion.....11.20 FF
France.....9.00 FF	Saudi Arabia.....9.00 R.
Gabon.....960 CFA	Senegal.....960 CFA
Greece.....300 Dr.	Spain.....200 Ptas
Ivory Coast.....1.120 CFA	Tunisia.....1.000 Dir
Jordan.....1 JD	Turkey.....15.000 Liras
Lebanon.....US\$ 1.50	U.A.E.....8.50 Dirh
	U.S. Mil. (Eur.) \$1.10

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On Korea
Conference Idea
Gives Russia Role
By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Staff Writer
MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry, continuing to seek a more visible role in world diplomacy, proposed a multilateral conference Thursday to resolve growing tensions with North Korea.

The conference would seek to enforce the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty while "preventing a slide into confrontation," said the ministry spokesman, Grigori Karasin. Russia would take part, along with the United States, Japan, China and North and South Korea, he said.

The proposal represented the latest in a series of Russian efforts to reinsert itself into global diplomacy and ensure that Washington not be allowed to lead unilaterally. Russia's recent flurry of activity, aimed at showing that it remains a superpower, has ranged from the former Yugoslavia to the Middle East to Somalia.

Tensions with North Korea have been growing since the Communist regime in Pyongyang refused to allow an international delegation of experts to inspect some of its nuclear installations. U.S. officials have said they suspect that North Korea is secretly building one or more nuclear weapons.

In its statement Thursday, the Foreign Ministry stressed that it would continue to support international efforts to force North Korea to comply with the nonproliferation treaty, including voting for a resolution now pending before the United Nations Security Council.

But Russia also insisted that the issue could not be settled "on a bilateral basis." And it spoke of "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" in ways that might not suit Washington, which has always sought to keep separate the issues of North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the U.S. military presence, nuclear and otherwise, in South Korea.

"Considering the failure of the negotiations, we consider that it is not enough to attempt to resolve the problem on a bilateral basis," Mr. Karasin said.

A multinational conference, which would also include representatives of the UN and the International Atomic Energy Agency, should take into account "the legitimate interests of all the parties involved," the spokesman added.

"That would include appropriate international control and noninterference in the internal affairs of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea," Mr. Karasin said, referring to North and South Korea, respectively.

Moscow For Talks On Korea Conference Idea Gives Russia Role

By Fred Hiatt

Washington Post Staff Writer

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A North Korean scrutinizing U.S. and South Korean troops Thursday on the border at Panmunjom.

China Nuclear Force Called Minimal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China is developing a new generation of long-range nuclear weapons, but the advances are only the logical progression of a nuclear program that remains far behind America's, a leading U.S. weapons expert says.

Robert S. Norris, the principal author of a book released Wednesday on the origins and current status of nuclear weapons programs in China, Britain and France, said China had deployed only four nuclear missiles capable of reaching U.S. soil.

"China is apparently content to demonstrate its capability to produce and deploy such a minimal force" and "not provoke undue fears of Chinese nuclear intentions in Washington and Moscow by deploying a larger number," he wrote.

The authors, who studied the secretive Chinese nuclear program for several years, said China's focus is on qualitative improvements,

and the number of weapons in the Chinese arsenal is unlikely to grow for the foreseeable future even though China has the industrial capacity to produce many more warheads and missiles.

China is striving to develop the ability to move its long-range missiles on rails or other means of transport, enable its missiles to carry more than one warhead each and make them capable of being launched on shorter notice, the authors wrote.

The book was sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, a private group opposed to nuclear arms development.

Mr. Norris said that contrary to common U.S. perceptions, neither Britain, France nor China was planning to substantially increase its arsenal. Expansion plans have been quietly scrapped for financial and strategic reasons, he said.

"As in the United States, there are large question marks in these

three countries about what role nuclear weapons will play in their security and their armed forces," he said in an interview.

The authors estimate that Britain at the end of 1993 had an operational stockpile of about 200 nuclear weapons, which is expected to rise to a peak of about 300 near the end of the decade; France had 524, falling to 465; and China about 450, with no expected change.

The United States now has about 10,500 weapons in the active stockpile and Russia has about 15,000 active.

Mr. Norris, who visited China three times in the course of his research for the book, said the Chinese arsenal probably comprises about 300 strategic, or long-range, nuclear weapons structured in a "triad of land-based missiles, bombers and submarine-based missiles." The other roughly 150 weapons in the arsenal are artillery shells and other battlefield nuclear weapons.

Waste Racketeers Threaten to Soil Cleanup Trade

By Barry James

International Herald Tribune

Even if developing nations succeed in their aim of banning toxic waste exports from rich to poor countries, experts said Thursday, there is little to stop the trade from being taken over by racketeers.

The developing countries are calling for the ban at a meeting in Geneva of signatory nations to the Basel Convention, which regulates transboundary shipments of hazardous waste.

The convention secretariat has only a handful of officials, a woefully inadequate \$2.2 million budget to cover the world and no powers of enforcement.

Several industrial nations, including the United States, Germany, Britain and Japan, have argued that export of "recyclable" toxic waste should be allowed to countries that agree to receive it and have the proper facilities for dealing with it. The United States has not yet ratified the Basel Convention.

Pope John Paul II recently denounced the toxic trade as "a grave abuse and an offense," and British bishops similarly condemned it as unethical. Environment Minister Svend Auken of Denmark, the only

NEWS ANALYSIS

industrialized country to support the developing nations, said in Geneva that most recycling is a "sham."

Greenpeace, the environmental organization, says recycling is just a pretty word for loopholes. To prove its point, it gathered a ton of German and Dutch plastic waste in Indonesia and spread it on the ground in front of the conference center where ministers and senior officials from Basel Convention countries are meeting.

Police and environmental sources said that if a ban was enforced, the trade inevitably would be pushed into the arms of organized crime.

Following an attempt to ship millions of tons of waste to Somalia, in which the Italian Mafia may have been involved, investigators are convinced that racketeers already have taken over much of the business. The mastermind of the Somali deal moved to Indonesia, where he was last reported to be working on a deal to ship toxic waste to Vietnam and Cambodia.

In the United States, organized criminals are alleged to be involved in the waste haulage business in several cities. Paul Stas, a Belgian member of the European Parliament, said he has circumstantial evidence that American crooks and former security officials in Eastern Europe have teamed up to exploit opportunities in Europe.

John Arans, a Greenpeace investigator in the Netherlands who worked for 22 years as a detective, said he kept running into the same people he used to meet when he was investigating narcotics and arms-trafficking cases. Michael Braumgart of the Hamburg Environmental Institute said that dishonest waste brokers can make profits available elsewhere only from the drugs trade, and at no risk to themselves.

Even though many developing countries have enacted import bans, they are powerless to prevent collusion between wealthy traders in the West and corrupt local officials and businessmen. Thus, the developing countries at the Geneva meeting have argued for an export ban on hazardous waste exports, which they say will help deal with the problem at its source.

However, this will not prevent unscrupulous traders using a panoply of euphemisms such as "industrial raw materials" to get around a ban, or relabeling toxic waste as nonhazardous garbage, which can legally be exported.

Every year thousands of tons of waste containing heavy metals, solvents, dioxins, sewage sludge, incinerator ash, acids, scrap tires, and expired pesticides are dumped in poor countries lacking elementary means to deal with the hazards, Greenpeace says.

The Earth Resources Center at Exeter University in England says that the poor countries that receive toxic waste are unable to afford proper pollution control technology, leading to serious environmental degradation. And some countries that have been receiving toxic wastes, particularly Russia, have enormous environmental problems of their own making.

A senior official at the Basel Convention secretariat said the organization did not have enough money even to help countries struggling to deal with the problem of toxic waste already dumped on their territory.

One paradox is that the more industrialized countries clean up their own environment, the greater is the pressure for the waste problem to be swept under somebody else's carpet.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 Russian Submarines Safely Graze

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Russian nuclear submarines grazed each other during an exercise in the Barents Sea, the Russian Navy said Thursday. It said there were no casualties or damage.

The accident occurred Wednesday, the navy's press service said in a short statement. The two submarines, carrying nuclear weapons, along with their weapons, remained "in service" after the incident, returning safely to their base without assistance. There were no radiation leaks, the press service said.

The Finnish Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety reported no increased radiation levels in the Barents Sea area. The center has about a dozen monitoring stations in northern Finland, close to the Barents Sea coast.

U.S. Affirms Stand on China Trade

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The White House said Thursday that its policy of linking China's trade status to the human rights issue stands "at this point" and that future decisions would depend on China's actions.

The White House spokeswoman, Dee Dee Myers, said an executive order that President Bill Clinton signed in May outlining the steps China must take to win renewal of its most-favored-nation trading status remained in effect.

Asked if Washington would ever drop the linkage between human rights and trade status for China, Ms. Myers said: "At this point the executive order is in effect and I think it depends on what China does between now and the time that MFN needs to be renewed in June."

German Veterans Criticize U.K. Plan

BONN (Reuters) — German veterans on Thursday welcomed Britain's plan to ask Germany to join commemorations of the end of World War II, but added that to exclude German former servicemen was outdated and did not help reconciliation.

Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday invited Germany, left out of this year's D-day commemoration in France, to join celebrations next year in London to remember VE (Victory in Europe) Day on May 8, 1945, when Nazi Germany capitulated.

But British officials said Wednesday that German veterans would not be asked to take part, although present-day German soldiers might be invited. Joachim Faustmann, spokesman for a German veterans' association said that to draw a distinction between former and present soldiers was "outdated and anachronistic."

2d Kurdish Woman Dies in Germany

BONN (Reuters) — A second Kurd has died in Germany after setting herself ablaze in protest at what she called Bonn's support for Turkish suppression of her people, the police said Thursday.

Police in Mannheim said Nilgun Yildirim, 25, died in the hospital on Wednesday after she and a companion set fire to themselves on the bank of the Rhine. Her companion, Bedriye Tas, 24, died at the scene of the self-immolation on Monday, the Kurdish New Year's Day.

The two women left a note accusing Germany of hostility to Kurds and of supplying arms for Turkey's military attacks on separatists in southeast Turkey.

Clinton Keeps Out of Jerusalem Feud

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton said Thursday that the question of a united Jerusalem should be decided in Mideast peace negotiations and not by outside interference.

Mr. Clinton met Jewish-American leaders at the White House. He was described afterwards by Lester Pollack, head of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as telling the group "that he believes in the united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel." During the 1992 presidential campaign, Mr. Clinton said that he would like to see Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The United States, however, keeps its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Asked later to elaborate on his view toward Jerusalem, Mr. Clinton replied: "My position has not changed on that issue, but my position is also that the United States and other countries should refrain from intervening in these peace talks between the parties themselves."

For the Record

The remaining 26 hostages seized by Surinamese rebels were freed overnight when the army stormed the Arafat hydroelectric plant where they were held, the Dutch news agency ANP said. The army freed them "without bloodshed," ANP reported from Paramaribo. (AP)

The Colombia Constitutional Court ordered that the first round of presidential elections, scheduled for May 8, be delayed to May 29 because of a technicality. The court ruled that the law calling the vote was an ordinary one and not a special statute as required. (Reuters)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Queen Opens Crown Jewel Showcase

LONDON (Reuters) — Queen Elizabeth II made a rare trip to the Tower of London on Thursday to open a new showcase for the crown jewels, Britain's biggest tourist attraction.

"I am delighted to be here today on a visit which recalls for me my own Coronation Day," she said before heading into the new Jewel House.

She last came to see the nine crowns, two orbs, scepters, maces and other treasures when she opened the old jewel house in 1967 in a bunker at the tower that soon proved unable to cope with the crowds. The new, larger home, inside a vault in a former barracks, has steel doors, bullet proof glass cases and numerous hidden security devices. It is designed to receive up to 20,000 people a day. More than 2 million people a year are expected to pay £8 (\$12) each for a visit.

Barcelona subway and bus workers walked off the job Thursday, leaving 2 million commuters struggling to get to work with minimal transport services. The police reported a 10-percent increase in vehicle traffic. The walkout was to continue through Friday. (AP)

A fire broke out on a Greek cruise ship while it was docked in Piraeus harbor early Thursday, but no one was injured, officials said. The Pallas Athena was due to leave Friday on a three-day cruise to Greek islands and the Turkish resort of Kusadasi with 800 people. Only some watchmen were aboard at the time. The fire's cause is not yet known. (AP)

Brussels police evacuated the Central Station for two hours on Thursday after a bomb threat. The police said the threat was a hoax. (AP)

Support workers at Schiphol airport struck for two hours Thursday afternoon, but no flights were delayed, the Amsterdam airport said. Up to 800 bus drivers, fire fighters, security guards and administrative employees demonstrated against a proposed two-year salary freeze. (AP)

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has cut fares to Suriname after a news report that the carrier was threatened by the Surinamese Liberation Army. KLM refused to deny there was a link between the threat and the cuts, except to say that the decision was based on "market situations and the relationship between income and costs of flights." (AP)

A huge power cut blacked out the Western Australian capital of Perth on Thursday as well as a huge swathe of the state, causing widespread disruption. Businesses, factories and homes lost all power during the peak morning period. In Perth, traffic lights were blacked out, causing rush-hour chaos, and trains came to a standstill. Radio services were interrupted and some phone systems failed. (AP)

Caracas has begun rationing water because of unusually low reservoirs. Water will be turned off for as many as four days a week in some parts of the city until the rainy season begins in May. (AP)

Railroad unions in Japan were expected to cancel a 24-hour strike planned for Friday, news reports said from Tokyo. (AP)

Major Says EU Vote Stand Is a Matter of Principle

By John Darnton

New York Times Service

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major said Thursday that Britain was fighting a battle of principle in a bruising confrontation with most of the rest of Europe over how many votes will be needed to block decisions when the European Union expands from 12 countries to 16.

In speaking to the House of Commons over a stalemate that has stymied the European Union for weeks, he said his government was trying to check an undemocratic trend in which the populations of large countries had many fewer votes per capita than the populations of smaller countries.

Britain's position, supported only by Spain, has been attacked by the other 10 member countries. In Parliament on Thursday, John Smith, leader of the opposition Labor Party, charged that Mr. Major's stand was designed to head off a rebellion of rightists in the Conservative Party.

"He's more concerned to protect himself and his position from attacks within his own party," Mr. Smith said, as fellow Laborites booed and hooted the prime minister.

Officials in the prime minister's office, meanwhile, let it be known that they were working on proposals to break the deadlock in Brussels. It will go before a meeting of foreign ministers in Greece on Saturday.

Mr. Major's hard line emerged Tuesday when he condemned European countries on the other side of the dispute and attacked leaders of Labor as people who do not stand up for British interests.

Implant Companies to Pay \$3.7 Billion

By Gina Kolata

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the largest settlement ever negotiated in a class-action lawsuit, officials of three companies gave final approval to an agreement to pay \$3.7 billion over 30 years to women claiming they were injured by silicone breast implants.

In the highly complex settlement, the companies — Dow Corning Corp., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Baxter Healthcare Corp. — will pay women specific amounts for injuries.

The agreement Wednesday still must be approved by the companies' boards of directors and by Judge Sam C. Pointer of U.S. District Court in Birmingham, Alabama. Even if he approves it, the settlement can crumble if too few women sign up. But if it goes through it will

clear the courts of many of the 12,000 cases involving more than 25,000 women who had implants and say they were injured.

The manufacturers of the implants said that there was no scientific evidence that they were harmful, and that they were agreeing to the settlement to put the expensive litigation behind them. Dow Corning agreed to pay \$2.018 billion, Bristol-Myers \$1.154 billion and Baxter Healthcare \$555 million.

An estimated one million to two million women had silicone breast implants in the last 25 years. Some women and doctors say that the devices caused a variety of diseases, including autoimmune disorders, like lupus, and connective tissue disorders, like scleroderma, a progressive hardening and thickening of the skin and internal organs.

Geoffrey Miller, a law professor at the University of Chicago said the agreement was virtually unprecedented in size and complexity. "It's going to be a model for future class-action litigation," he said.

The agreement provides that set amounts will be paid to women with specific conditions, with no requirement that they show that their implants caused the disorders. But the fees can be reduced if too many women sign up. If that happens, the women can decide to drop out of the agreement.

The companies can also opt out if too few women sign up. "We can't pay both the immense costs of litigation and the settlement," said T. Michael Jackson, a spokesman for Dow Corning.

Space Photos Prove It: Asteroids Have Moons

By John Noble Wilford

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A spacecraft bound for Jupiter has returned a photograph and other data giving scientists the first conclusive evidence that at least some asteroids have tiny moons of their own.

The photo, released Wednesday by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shows the newly discovered natural satellite of the asteroid Ida. The picture was one of several taken Aug. 28 when the Galileo spacecraft flew close to Ida, one of a multitude of small rocky objects that populate the re-

gion known as the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

The discovery adds a new class of objects to the inventory of the solar system. It could also provide scientists with clues to the origin and evolution of asteroids, thought to be material from an early solar system that failed to coalesce into planets and has been fragmented by repeated collisions.

Analysis of one of the Galileo pictures and data from the near-infrared mapping spectrometer show that Ida is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) long and 15 miles in diameter, and has a companion no more than 60 miles away.

This little moon is about a mile wide, probably elongated, with the long axis pointed toward Ida. Astronomers were not too surprised to learn that asteroids had moons. Some observations with ground-based telescopes had provided hints, but nothing definitive. The surprise was that the discovery was made on only the second asteroid to be inspected at close range by a spacecraft.

"It previously was thought that natural satellites of asteroids could form, but they probably weren't common," said Dr. Torrence V. Johnson, the project's chief scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where the Galileo mission is being directed.

"Having found one fairly quickly, we can say that they're probably more common than previously thought."

In October 1991, the Galileo spacecraft made the first fly-by of an asteroid, the small potato-shaped Gaspra no more than 11 miles long. Then it flew within 1,500 miles of Ida last summer, but because Galileo's malfunctioning main antenna is only partly deployed, transmission of the recorded pictures and other data has been extremely slow.

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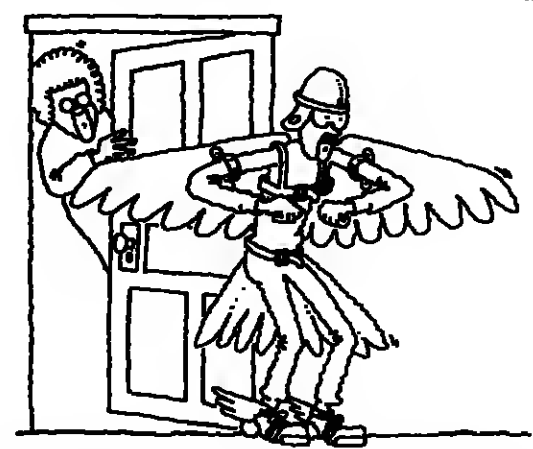
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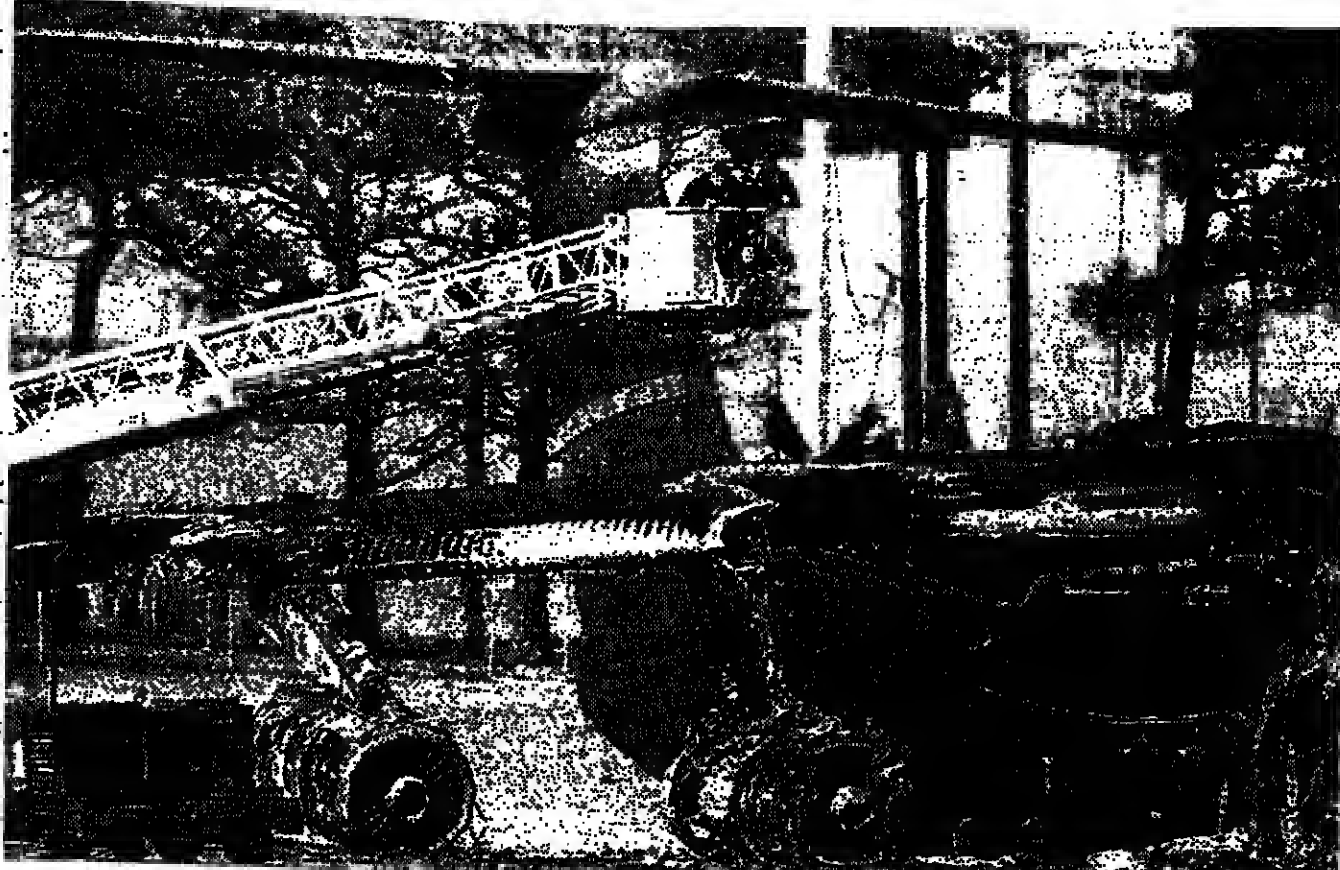
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THE AMERICAS / A RAGGED HOLE



Military investigators inspecting the transport involved in the fiery airfield crash Thursday that killed paratroopers on the ground.

Mixed Signals Blamed for Fatal Air Base Inferno

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, North Carolina — Military officials blamed a communications failure for the collision of two air force planes that sent fiery debris crashing onto hundreds of army paratroopers preparing for a flight. Twenty people were killed and 85 injured.

An F-16D fighter and the C-130 transport collided less than 300 feet (90 meters) above the base Wednesday. Both pilots thought they had been cleared to land, said Brigadier General Bobby Floyd, a wing commander. "For some unknown reason they both appeared at the same time in the same place," he said. "Obviously, there was a failure to communicate."

The C-130's five-member crew landed safely. The fighter pilot and a flir being trained ejected, but their jet crashed in flames and skidded across the runway. Its flaming bulk plowed into a staging area where about 500 army troops were preparing for airborne exercises.

Ames Case Moves Toward a Plea Accord

By David Johnston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors have begun negotiations with Aldrich Ames in the hope of a plea agreement with the career intelligence officer and his wife, Rosario, who have been accused of spying for Moscow, government officials said.

At this stage, prosecutors have agreed only to show defense lawyers portions of the circumstantial evidence that investigators turned up through electronic surveillance and in searches of the Ames' home, office and computer files.

That information would enable defense lawyers to assess the strength of the government's case. The prospect of the government's prevailing in a trial appeared to be strengthened when, prosecutors said, Mrs. Ames unexpectedly admitted spying for Moscow in a conversation with federal agents shortly after her arrest Feb. 21.

Discussions between prosecutors and lawyers for the couple are delicate and still at a preliminary phase, officials said. But lawyers inside and outside the government believe Mr. Ames and his wife are likely to seek a plea agreement.

The government wants Mr. Ames to describe any espionage activity he may have engaged in, but prosecutors want to avoid spending time and money on a trial in which they would almost certainly be forced to disclose details of highly classified operations.

Moreover, the Central Intelligence Agency might be embarrassed if defense lawyers questioned the agency's failure to detect Mr. Ames years earlier.

Mr. Ames and his wife are both presumed to be seeking leniency, lawyers say. They have already asked the government to unfreeze some of their funds to care for their 5-year-old son, Paul.

Both have been denied bail, and their son is in the care of relatives. Some defense lawyers have suggested in interviews that Mr. Ames might accept a plea agreement with the understanding that his wife would get a lesser sentence so that she could take care of their son.

Prosecutors have accused Mr. Ames, an intelligence officer with 31 years at the agency, and his wife, whom he met when he recruited her as a paid informer while stationed in Mexico City, of conspiring to commit espionage.

In court documents, the government has accused the couple of accepting more than \$2.5 million in payments from the Soviet KGB and later from the Russian intelligence service during a nine-year espionage career.

Pollard Plea Is Denied

President Bill Clinton has denied clemency to the convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, saying that the "enormity" of his crime and the "considerable damage" it caused meant that his life sentence for spying for Israel should be maintained. The Washington Post reported.

In announcing the decision, which had been expected, Mr. Clinton said he had considered Mr. Pollard's plea for leniency "because he spied for a friendly nation." But he added: "I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration."

Killing Jolts Mexico's Steady Image

By Edward Cody
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The bullet that killed Luis Donaldo Colosio ripped a ragged hole in the dreams of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to make Mexico a stable, modern nation and an equal partner of the United States.

The shooting of Mr. Colosio, in its own way like the assassination of John F. Kennedy three decades ago, is likely to help define a new identity for Mexico — sharply different from that of the reliable, business-minded neighbor that Mr. Salinas sold for the North American Free Trade Agreement.

For more than 60 years, the Institutional Revolutionary Party has ruled Mexico with few ripples. Its hold on power often has been criticized as corrupt and stifling, but built on electoral fraud and official payoff. But few have contested its claim that the party's domination preserved Mexico from the turmoil and bloodshed that marked its revolution at the beginning of the century and led to frequent U.S. military intervention.

While many Latin American nations lurched from one military coup to another or bogged down in Cold War guerrilla warfare, Mexico seemed to cruise evenly along, its political decisions made behind closed doors and its leaders chosen in an intricate intraparty power dance. Even with the prickly nationalism and extravagant corruption, Mexico was a neighbor the United States could count on.

Mr. Salinas himself, although passionately committed to reform, repeatedly told visitors that the sclerotic party structure built up over the years could not be dismantled abruptly for fear of political turmoil. Economic reform could move full speed ahead, he counseled, but political reform should be limited to cool, clear doses that he could control.

Mr. Colosio, a former senator and party leader, was chosen by Mr. Salinas as the official presidential candidate in large part to maintain that cautious course.

A native of northern Mexico, Mr. Colosio built a career that has been steady, dependable and distinctly unrevolutionary for a militant in a party whose very name speaks revolution. In a conversation several years ago during a campaign tour through the Mexican heartland, Mr. Colosio piloted a panel truck down country roads while engagingly reciting the gospel according to Salinas with hardly a comma of his own.

Mmanuel Camacho Solis, the other main contender for the party's mantle and a close friend of Mr. Salinas, seemed too closely identified with calls for genuinely competitive elections. In the end, Mr. Salinas chose dependability over radical reform.

But over the last three months, all that calculation seems to have fallen apart.

First Indian rebels, led by an anachronistic "Comandante Mar-

A Candidate With a Common Touch

Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — Luis Donaldo Colosio, the ruling party's presidential candidate who was assassinated while campaigning in Tijuana, was notable among Mexico's political elite for having worked his way to the top from a working-class background bereft of economic privilege.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari chose him in November to be the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, passing over a roster of Ivy League graduates within his cabinet whose presidential qualifications perhaps surpassed those of Mr. Colosio but who lacked his feel for the needs of common Mexicans.

Mr. Colosio almost certainly would have succeeded Mr. Salinas in the presidency, given the party's unbroken control of the government for the last 65 years.

The son of a northern Mexico meat packer, Mr. Colosio went to public school and, unlike his colleagues in the party, was forced by economic necessity to attend college at Monterrey Technical Institute, majoring in economics. He later attended graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and was an avid American football fan.

Chief among his hobbies was riding around Mexico City on his Harley-Davidson Electra Glide, a helmet helping conceal his identity.

Before leaving Mr. Salinas's cabinet in November to take up the candidacy, the 44-year-old Mr. Colosio served as secretary of social development, a post that took him throughout the country, meeting with poor Mexicans and doing out government funds through the president's social welfare program.

Political observers say his dedication to Mr. Salinas and his program of deep-cutting economic reforms was unquestionable, and a major reason for his selection as the party's candidate. Mr. Colosio's detractors contend that he was chosen for malleability and for the likelihood that he would let Mr. Salinas have continued political influence long after his presidential term expires in December.

But in an interview with The Washington Post while campaigning in the eastern state of Veracruz in January, Mr. Colosio said he would have no reservations breaking from Mr. Salinas, especially in the area of social programs aimed at helping the poorest citizens.

—TOD ROBBERTSON

Away From Politics

• Philip Morris Tobacco Companies Inc. has filed a \$10 billion libel lawsuit against the ABC television network for what it said were false and defamatory statements alleging that cigarettes were "artificially spiked" with nicotine. ABC's "Day One" said that tobacco makers spiked cigarettes "to keep people smoking," a Philip Morris statement said.

• An immigration judge in Portland, Oregon, has blocked the deportation of a Nigerian woman, citing the probability that her two young daughters would face ritual female circumcision if she were forced to return.

• An explosion early Thursday in an underground natural gas pipeline destroyed eight apartment buildings in a fierce blaze in Edison, New Jersey. Twenty-nine residents were injured and hundreds forced to flee.

• New York got its first pharmacy dedicated especially to providing medicines and services to AIDS patients. Last year, a similar specialty pharmacy for people with AIDS opened in San Francisco.

• Scores of grass fires blamed for the death of a firefighter flared out of control in northern Oklahoma, adding to more than 10,000 acres scorched this week.

• A U.S. Coast Guard cutter returned 234 Haitian "boat people" to their homeland, including a boatload of refugees intercepted just outside a U.S. Navy base in Cuba. The Coast Guard has intercepted 42,761 Haitians at sea since Haiti's military ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

• British researchers reported that nicotine patches appear to relieve the symptoms of ulcerative colitis, a chronic inflammation of the colon that causes bloody diarrhea and abdominal pain and is sometimes hard to treat.

• An early morning fire engulfed the top floor of a home and killed seven persons in Kookuk, Iowa, Thursday.

AP, Reuters

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★ POLITICAL VOTES ★

White House Coverup, Lawmaker Says

WASHINGTON — A Republican lawmaker delivered a scorching attack against President Bill Clinton over the Whitewater affair on Thursday, accusing him of "arrogance of power" and charging an administration cover-up.

In a speech in the House, Jim Leach, Republican of Iowa, offered a detailed list of accusations against Mr. Clinton and top administration officials over the affair, which involves a 1990s Arkansas land deal and the failed Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan institution.

"Within the landscape of political scandals, Whitewater may be a bump but it speaks mountains about 'me generation' public ethics as well as single party control of certain states and the U.S. Congress," said Mr. Leach, the senior Republican on the House Banking Committee. "In a nutshell, Whitewater is about the arrogance of power."

Among Mr. Leach's charges was that money was skimmed from Madison Guaranty to support the Whitewater land deal, in which the president and his wife were partners, and that the Clintons benefited from Whitewater "well in excess of resources invested."

He also charged that the independence of the government's regulatory system had been "flagrantly violated" to protect Mr. Clinton. "Congress and the executive are employing closed society techniques to resist full disclosure of an embarrassing circumstance," said Mr. Leach, who has been outspoken in demanding a full congressional inquiry into Whitewater.

Meanwhile, two more White House aides testified Thursday before a federal grand jury over the Whitewater affair. Bruce Lindsey and George Stephanopoulos brought to eight the number of administration officials who have gone before the grand jury investigating White House and Treasury Department contacts on the affair.

Afterward, Mr. Lindsey said he had answered all the questions asked. "I have complete confidence, once all the facts are out, that nothing improper was done by anyone at the White House," he said.

The grand jury, under the direction of the special prosecutor, Robert B. Fiske Jr., is investigating whether the contacts improperly interfered with the government's inquiry of the Madison savings institution.

(Reuters)

President Moves to Battle Low Popularity

WASHINGTON — President Clinton scheduled a prime-time news conference for Thursday night to try to make the case that his administration is moving forward on its domestic agenda despite the ethics controversies that have surrounded the White House.

The decision to hold a news conference came as several polls showed a sharp drop in Mr. Clinton's public approval ratings.

The president has maintained for weeks that Whitewater and related issues are inside-the-Beltway preoccupations that do not concern most Americans. But a new Washington Post poll illustrates the toll that the last month of ethical controversies has taken on the president. Mr. Clinton's job approval has dropped 11 points, to 47 percent from 58 in February. The disapproval has over that month risen to 45 percent from 38 percent.

That was the president's lowest rating in seven months. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Representative Dan Rostenkowski, Democrat of Illinois and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, on President Clinton's vow to veto any health plan that does not guarantee coverage for every American: "That's what the president wants. We're going to try to put it in, but I don't think members are going to fall on their swords. I'm going to suggest to the president that whatever bill he gets he ought to be happy with it because it's a step in the right direction." (WP)

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Israeli Army Takes Some Flak Firefight at Hospital Said to Terrorize Patients

By Clyde Haberman

New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Army found itself on the defensive Thursday, both from angry Palestinians and at least one Israeli cabinet minister, for having used a children's hospital as a firebase against a band of Palestinian fugitives in Hebron.

Groups of Palestinian and Israeli doctors accused soldiers of "terrorizing patients and staff" at Mohammedi Ali Hospital when they used it along with other buildings on Wednesday for what turned into an 18-hour battle against suspected gunmen of the militant Hamas group, who were holed up in a nearby apartment house.

Three, and possibly four, of the wanted Hamas men were killed in the long assault, in which a pregnant Arab woman also was killed under disputed circumstances. Palestinians say the soldiers killed her, but the army insists she was hit by fire from the fugitives.

The siege in Hebron touched off new rioting Thursday across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At least 30 Palestinians were reportedly wounded by soldiers and half a dozen or more Israelis were injured by Arab stone-throwers in Hebron, Nablus, Jenin and the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza.

The battle on Wednesday intensified Palestinian demands that Hebron's population be given special protection, a central point of continuing negotiations in Cairo between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to Israeli officials, the two sides have agreed on a lightly armed Palestinian police force and

a similarly armed international presence for that flash-point town. Most likely, an official said, the foreign contingent will be comprised largely of Norwegians, whose country has been an important broker in the Israeli-PLO talks.

Although the Cairo negotiations were described as friendly, the atmosphere was hardly improved by the battle on Wednesday, the most violent day in Hebron since the Feb. 25 massacre of at least 29 Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler.

Whatever the death toll turns out to be, the focus Thursday was on the army's use of the hospital, with its 32 young patients, as a staging area for its assault on the Hamas fugitives.

The action was criticized by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a violation of international law. Two local groups, the Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights and the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, protested that the army had sealed off the hospital grounds, confining staff members and "32 terrified children."

In response, Major General Danny Yatom, who commands forces in central Israel, including the West Bank, defended the Hebron operation as a necessary tactic against armed Muslim militants, who, he said, were "some of the senior terrorists of Hebron and its surrounding area."

A cabinet member, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, questioned the wisdom of the army's assault. Aides to several other cabinet members also said that they felt the operation was ill-timed.

MEXICO: Candidate Slain

Continued from Page 1

ruling party by giving its rank-and-file a genuine say in how the replacement candidate is chosen.

"We are most likely going to see a joint decision between Salinas and the PRI leadership at this point," said a diplomat. "Salinas probably will not make this decision by himself."

Mexico's constitution prohibits Mr. Salinas from running for reelection and requires any government official to resign at least six months before elections are held in order to run. Since the presidential vote is scheduled for Aug. 21, 2000, current members of the cabinet are ineligible.

A short list of potential candidates already was circulating at party headquarters Thursday, as Mr. Colosio's casket was flown in from Tijuana and placed on view in the auditorium where he gave his candidacy acceptance speech last Nov. 28.

Diplomats said the two most commonly circulated names of potential candidates are Ernesto Zedillo, Mr. Colosio's campaign manager and former education secretary, and Fernando Ortiz Arana, the party's president.

They said another potential candidate was Manuel Camacho Solis, a chief rival of Mr. Colosio's within the party and currently the government's peace negotiator with peasant rebels in the southern state of Chiapas. Mr. Camacho had indicated in recent weeks that he was considering a breakthrough presidential campaign.

But Mr. Camacho announced Thursday that he did not want to be considered as a potential replacement candidate. Before making his statement, he was attacked by a Colosio supporter standing vigil at the funeral home, and the statement itself provoked cheers and sustained applause from other Colosio supporters.

Wednesday night outside the party headquarters, mourners were heard shouting, "Colosio yes! Camacho no!" There were also audible expressions of support for Mr. Ortiz Arana, but it was unclear how much backing he has.

For Mr. Salinas, it is the second major crisis in three months, the first being the Jan. 1 peasant rebellion in Chiapas, which led to at least 145 deaths. Mr. Camacho has yet to secure an accord with rebel leaders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Bomb Wounds 4 in Istanbul

Agence France-Press

ISTANBUL — A bomb explosion wounded four persons Thursday in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. Police said a Romanian was among the casualties from the blast, which occurred in a ladies' toilet.

(Reuters, AP)

Three Alliances Square Off for Italian Election

A total of 15 political parties have joined three alliances to contest Italy's general elections on Sunday and Monday.

Left - Progressives

Initially seen as firm favorites at the polls, the Progressives have been eclipsed by the rising right and have been forecast to win about 35 percent of the vote. The alliance's main members are:

Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). Successor to what was the West's largest Communist Party and Italy's permanent opposition since World War II, the PDS of Achille Occhetto hopes to capitalize on big gains in mayoral elections last December. It says that, since it has been largely untouched by Italy's graft scandal, it is the right party to take Italy into a new era.

Communist Refoundation. The hard-line one of the old Italian Communist Party that refused to join Occhetto's PDS when the party changed its name and ditched Marxism in 1991. It has defied the PDS over economic policy and is demanding an end to privatization and extra taxes on investment income.

Socialist Party (PSI). The remains of the party that was the linchpin of governments for two decades under Bettino Craxi. It collapsed under the weight of the political corruption scandal. The new leader is Ottaviano Del Turco, a former labor leader.

La Rete (The Network). Sicilian-based anti-Mafia party headed by Palermo Mayor Leoluca Orlando, a former Christian Democrat who has launched a challenge to organized crime that is believed to have put him on the mob's hit list.

Other small parties in the alliance include the center-left Democratic Alliance, Christian Socialists, Socialist Renewal and the pro ecology Greens.

Source: Reuters



Achille Occhetto



Silvio Berlusconi

Center

Expected to win about 16 percent of the vote, the two-party centrist alliance is the smallest of the three, but could hold the balance of power if neither of the two big blocs wins an absolute majority.

Popular Party. Launched in January from the ruins of the Christian Democrats, the main force in government for four decades and, with the Socialists, the worst hit by the corruption scandal. It is led by one of the doyens of Italian politics, Mino Martinazzoli.

Pact for Italy. The alliance formed by ex-Christian Democrat Mario Segni, father of the 1993 electoral reform referendum that has given Italy a new simple majority voting system. Segni is the only politician openly running for prime minister.

Other small parties in the alliance are the Christian Democratic Center (CDD) and the Union of the Democratic Center (UCD).

Right - Freedom Alliance

Headed by tycoon-turned-politician Silvio Berlusconi, it is the best placed alliance in opinion polls but is also the loosest and most affected by internal squabbles. Most recent surveys give it about 45 percent support. Forza Italia (Go Italy). Founded five months ago by Berlusconi to keep the left from power. Built from the top and staffed by executives from Berlusconi's media empire, it is promising one million jobs, tax cuts and free enterprise.

National Alliance. This grouping founded by Gianfranco Fini, leader of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), to attract conservative voters uncomfortable with the MSI's connections to the Fascist government of wartime dictator Benito Mussolini. It is fielding candidates with Forza Italia in central and southern Italy, where it made big gains in local elections last year.

Northern League. The pro-autonomy movement that has become the biggest party in northern Italy. Leader Umberto Bossi says he joined forces with Berlusconi only to stop the remains of Italy's scandal-ridden establishment from subverting the political right.

Other small parties in the alliance are the Christian Democratic Center (CDD) and the Union of the Democratic Center (UCD).

Source: Reuters

ITALY: Berlusconi, the Upstart Tycoon, Keeps Promising 'New Miracle'

Continued from Page 1

North and South what that road together." Instantly, the crowd began to chant "Silvio! Silvio!" and the candidate's campaign managers notched up another direct hit for marketing.

With just days to go before the vote on Sunday and Monday that will, in all probability, bury the ruling class that has dominated Italian politics for four decades, Mr. Berlusconi has emerged as the upstart who would be king, the millionaire tycoon of television, publishing, supermarkets, and real estate who would use corporate savvy to produce what he calls "a new Italian miracle."

His would-be miracle-working has not been without challenge, particularly from leftist adversaries, who are running a close second in polls that show many voters undecided. And he has tangled publicly with investigators and reporters, calling them all part of a communist conspiracy.

On Wednesday, in murky circumstances borne before a major television confrontation with his main adversary, Achille Occhetto, leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, plainclothes agents raided his headquarters in Rome to seek a list of candidates at the request of a magistrate investigating links between Freemasons, politicians and organized crime.

"These things happen only in totalitarian countries," Mr. Berlusconi protested.

[Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi broke his silence in the election campaign on Thursday, angrily rejecting an attack on his government by Mr. Berlusconi, Reuters reported from Rome.]

[Mr. Ciampi, a former central bank chief with no political ties, rejected allegations by Mr. Berlusconi that Budget Minister Luigi Spaventa had presented false figures to Parliament on Italy's budget deficit. "Nobody can honestly speak of falsification," Mr. Ciampi said, defending his government's economic record.]

Mr. Berlusconi, 57, has been compared to America's Ross Perot. Indeed, his extensive and skillful use of television, derived from his ownership of three private networks that regularly draw almost half of Italy's viewers, bears comparison to both Mr. Perot's nationwide book-tapes and President Bill Clinton's use of televised town hall meetings.

Above all, Mr. Berlusconi's campaign has been far closer to Ronald Reagan's Teflon years, somehow eluding the most damaging charges and contradictions surrounding him and his Forza Italia party.

While he offers himself as the emblem of a new Italy after years of corruption, his own fortune was made in the booming 1980s under the tutelage of Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist Party leader who faces more corruption charges than any other old guard politician. His brother, Paolo, and several of his senior executives face corruption inquiries related to his business empire, though Mr. Berlusconi himself remains untouched.

While his adversaries accuse him of being the man of the Mafia and the Masons in Palermo (he has acknowledged membership in Propaganda-2, a spurious Masonic lodge disbanded in 1981 amid accusations that it tried to overthrow the government), he has managed to turn the assertions around.

"We say it loud and clear," he declared to a standing ovation. "Every vote for Forza Italia in Sicily, Calabria, in Campania, and everywhere else in Italy is a vote against the Mafia."

And while his whole campaign is suffused with the notion that a successful entrepreneur can run a successful government, his own Fininvest corporation is \$2.2 billion in debt, losses that could only increase if his leftist adversaries win the election and fulfill their promise to restrict his television empire.

For his followers and allies, though, one of that seems to count: With his business empire and his 70-room villa outside Milan, and with his sense of personal style that Italians call "bella figura," Mr. Berlusconi has packaged himself as the Italian dream.

His adversaries see it somewhat differently. A victory for Mr. Berlusconi, said Mr. Occhetto, the leader of the leftist coalition, would mean Italy's "passing from the hands of the father to the hands of the son, from Craxi to Berlusconi."

■ TV Debate Called a Draw
Italian newspapers were at a loss on Thursday to designate a winner in the broadcast debate in which Mr. Berlusconi and Mr. Occhetto came face to face for the first time, Agence France-Press reported.

Most papers provided extensive coverage of the raucous exchanges, watched by millions on Wednesday night. "In sport terms, the debate was a draw, politically as well," said the center-right La Stampa daily, echoing a generally held view. "The champions of the right and left traded insults for 20 minutes and then witty words at the end."

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SOMALIA: For UN Force, All the Comforts of Home

Continued from Page 1

that we need to have developed things quite as much as they've been developed."

Although some private aid groups have undertaken significant development programs, such as rebuilding schools or establishing small businesses, UN humanitarian efforts have been minimal. U.S. and UN officials agree the unstable security situation, a preoccupation with emergency assistance and what Mr. Bogosian calls the "selective" condition of the UN aid bureaucracy.

A breakdown of the \$639 million allocated for the current November to May period offers a glimpse of priorities of the UN force in Somalia. Almost \$176 million is being spent to hire the roughly 19,000 UN soldiers posted in Somalia. Each soldier collects \$1.28 a day; another \$988 per soldier per month goes to the troops' governments, with an additional bonus of \$291 a month paid for each military specialist.

Another \$50.8 million is budgeted for depreciation of the troops' equipment and vehicles, \$53.1 million for food rations and \$23.5 mil-

lion for the cost of sending troops home and bringing new soldiers to replace them.

"We've also got ideas for recreation — tennis courts, squash courts, swimming pool, a mini-golf course. But we're not quite there yet," the official of the UN force said. "We thought that was really gliding the life a little bit. We don't want to be seen as looking after just ourselves when, after all, we're not going to be living here that long."

Nevertheless, this week workmen began erecting a new subdivision for 800 UN force employees along an asphalt street in the compound. The new village will cost about \$12 million, including \$7 million for the plumbing system.

"This is the only place in town with street lights," the UN force official said.

The prime beneficiaries of the spending by the UN force, other than the military contingents, have been Western contractors.

The biggest contractor is the Houston firm of Brown & Root, which has become the operation's new logistical arm. The UN force in Somalia has requested \$94 million from UN headquarters in New

York to pay for the company's services through the spring. That is in addition to a \$107 million contract let by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support the army and some UN operations in Somalia from December 1992 through this month.

The UN force has hired more than 1,800 Somalis for tasks ranging from ditch digging to translation services. Yet, the fact that the overwhelming majority of the operation's money has gone to companies and armies from elsewhere in the world rankles many Somalis.

"They have spent at least 90 percent of their money on the military," said Mohammed Abdi Elmi, an aide to the Somali faction leader, General Mohammed Farah Aidid. "There are still no schools, there's no electricity, there are no social services at all. We can't tell the donor community where their donations are going because we don't know. How can Unosom tell us they are here to help us? We don't see anything."

A Somali businessman, Ahmed Warsame, added, "They built themselves a little Washington in that compound. And that's all."

Somali Peace Is Signed by 2 Warlords

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NAIROBI — Somalia's two main warlords signed a peace pact in Nairobi on Thursday calling a cease-fire to end three years of violence and a reconciliation conference in May to elect a president and set up a new government.

The agreement was secured by an overnight compromise under UN pressure and fears of renewed civil war as the United States completes its military pullout from Somalia.

"We sign this declaration with great trust and confidence in each other," said General Mohammed Farah Aidid, the Mogadishu warlord. Mohammed Ali Mahdi, a self-styled president who was General Aidid's enemy, said the pact put them "at the threshold of a new era."

The last U.S. soldiers will board flights for home Friday morning, and within hours the Marines will return to their ships offshore. (Reuters, AP)

ALGERIA: Commanders, Rejecting Dialogue, Dig In for a Long Fight

Continued from Page 1

bring fundamentalists to power. In the last year, the insurgency has nearly turned into a civil war. Among the deaths are those of 32 foreigners singled out by the fundamentalists in an attempt to discourage foreign support for the government.

The directive granting new powers to General Lamari, who leads a group of Western-trained, French-trained officers bent on preventing fundamentalists from sharing any power, greatly diminishes the authority of the president, Mr. Zeroual, who officially holds the title of defense minister along with the presidency.

Mr. Zeroual was picked earlier this year by

the military junta to be president for a transitional three-year period. But shortly after coming to power, he seems to have incurred the wrath of the country's ruling elite, which is largely francophile and deeply secular in beliefs, by raising the specter of sharing power with Muslim fundamentalists.

Indications that secular hard-liners within the army and among the elite were ready to rebel against any notion of a dialogue have been evident for days.

In a fiery article, El Watan, a French-language daily known for its close ties to the army, criticized the president's call for a dialogue with fundamentalists, saying Mr. Zeroual was "leading the country to ruin."

Hard-liners among the fundamentalists have also rebelled against those Islamists who opted for dialogue. The Armed Islamic Group, which refuses all compromise, insisting on imposing the government down by force and driving all foreigners out, has threatened to kill Islamists who agree to negotiate an end to the civil strife.

The call-up plan coincided with one announcing price rises of up to 100 percent from Thursday on nine basic foods. Officials said it was a signal to the International Monetary Fund and creditors that the authorities were finally acting firmly to end the crisis. The IMF is negotiating with Algeria, which has a foreign debt of \$26 billion and is desperately in need of help to relieve poverty which officials say fuels the fundamentalist movement.

CHARITY: So Much Money in the Bank, So Little Time to Give It Away

Continued from Page 1

grant proposal and afterward declared it one of the best board meetings she had ever been to.

Long before she settled into dispensing money, she dreamed of becoming an actress. Instead, she found herself attracted to judging scripts. She eventually advanced to story editor at Warner Brothers, for which she bought nearly all the Bette Davis movies but will undoubtedly be best remembered for saying yes to "Casablanca."

After a decade in Hollywood, she came to New York as the story editor and talent scout for Hal Wallis, the producer.

In 1942 she married Aaron Dia-

mond, with whom she had a daughter. He was a man much on the go. He grew up one of nine children in modest circumstances in the South. His mother died when he was 2.

When he went to Harvard Business School, he earned money volunteering for medical experiments.

After college, he tried retailing, beginning with Macy's and then Abraham & Straus.

A friend enticed him into the construction business, and he became one of the most successful builders and developers in the city.

"We lived very nicely, but we never lived luxuriously," Ms. Diamond said. "He wanted to give something back. My husband

wasn't interested in accumulating more and more money. He wanted to do something with it."

In 1984, the couple began discussions about firing it up. Their sensibilities about philanthropy coincided. They were not interested in keeping their name burned into some perpetual memorial eventually controlled by other people. Most foundations disperse a portion of the investment income produced by their assets, preserving the principal. That keeps them around forever.

The Diamonds weren't keen to allow a small sum of money to dribble out every year. They wanted

to give away enough money to achieve real impact, and they wanted to do it in New York, the city that had enriched them.

Thus they wanted the foundation to hand out as much money each year as foundations with three or four times its wealth — and then come to an expedient end.

In a discussion in April 1984, the Diamonds worked out a spending formula: 40 percent on minority education, 40 percent on medical research and 20 percent on the arts.

A week later, Mr. Diamond died of a heart attack. Ms. Diamond went on with the plan alone. "I was never one to just go to lunch with the girls," she said.

مكتبة الرحيل



People lining up Thursday at a checkpoint near Vitez separating Bosnian-held areas from land held by Croatian forces.

Serbian Hijackers Terrorized UN Drivers

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Armed Serbs who hijacked and looted a United Nations aid convoy in Bosnia gave its drivers a white flag and ordered them to walk across a front line after warning them it was mined, UN officials said Thursday.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Peter Kessler, said the Serbs had forced the unarmed Danish drivers from the 10 trucks at gunpoint, and then stole their personal possessions.

The 10 drivers were lined up at gunpoint and "were frightened then for their lives," he said.

The United Nations said the men were taken to the front line, given a white flag and told to walk in the direction of Bosnian Croatian forces. The convoy was hijacked on Wednesday while transporting food and medicine to the Muslim enclave of Maglaj. Nine of the 10 trucks were still missing, and drivers said some of the medicine was dumped in a river.

It was one of the most serious

provocations directed at UN peacekeepers in Bosnia and again raised questions about the extent of political control over the Bosnian Serb Army.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said, "That was not really the army, that was, rather, an insane person and it is being investigated right now. The responsible people are going to be punished."

Kris Janowski, a UN relief spokesman in Sarajevo, said the convoy "was looted completely by Serb military, people in Serb uniforms, armed people."

"The convoy had a Serb police escort which evaporated," he added.

Maglaj, a town of 19,000, has been under siege for nine months. Serbian and Croatian forces have often refused to let aid convoys pass, leaving the town to rely on supplies dropped by air.

Meanwhile, a UN decision to invite Turkey to send troops to Bosnia as peacekeepers brought a sharp response from Bosnian Serbs

Japanese Workers Settling for Less

By Steven Brull
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — Afraid that the recession could spark layoffs of the sort seen in the West, some Japanese unions are accepting management demands for a freeze on wages in exchange for job security, a concession unprecedented in postwar Japan.

As Japan's annual spring wage offensive, or *shunto*, reached its peak on Thursday, unions at electronics companies and private railways bargained late into the night, threatening to strike Friday. But any eventual compromises are unlikely to change the average settlement of less than 3 percent, the lowest figure since the *shunto* started in 1955.

"In essence, it's a work-sharing deal," said Hidehiro Iwagi, a senior economist at the Nomura Research Institute. "But it's good enough to allow workers to maintain their standards of living, because prices are stable or falling."

Although in line with expectations, the settlements were a disappointment to unions that had hoped for increases greater than 5 percent. They argued that higher pay would stimulate private spending and help the broader economy emerge from the worst recession in Japan's postwar history.

But management, struggling to reverse four years of declining profits and overcome the strong yen's corrosive impact on competitiveness, insisted that wages be held in check.

Economists said the lack of an increase in inflation-adjusted salaries would leave cuts in income taxes and lower import prices as Tokyo's only tools for boosting personal consumption, which represents 60 percent of Japan's gross domestic product. The impact on corporate profits, they said, would be negligible.

While the negotiations underscore the flexibility of Japanese industrial relations that have spared Japan the pain of massive layoffs and rising unemployment, the poor settlement for labor casts further doubt on how much longer the *shunto* process will remain viable.

"*Shunto* is behind the times," Mr. Iwagi said. "As a structure for wage negotiations, it will die out by the end of the century."

Shunto's demise would mark the end of a highly coordinated system for setting nationwide wage levels, a system that has been an essential component of Japan's lifetime employment system. It is not clear what would replace it, however, because social welfare and labor mar-

ket mobility is far less developed than in the West.

The idea of the *shunto*, which began in 1955, was to marshal union strength by mounting a coordinated wage offensive each spring.

"During the fast-growth era until the early 1970s, the system worked well. Companies, enjoying rising profits, were willing to share gains with workers in exchange for loyalty that justified investments in worker training and led to world-beating standards in manufacturing."

Since the first oil shock of 1973, however, wage increases have been on a long-term downturn, reaching a nadir in this year's no-increase settlement. Moreover, the *shunto* system, in which a handful of leading firms reached wage agreements that set the standard for entire industries, is increasingly out of step with economic reality.

"When every company was growing rapidly, a common wage increase was possible, but now there are stark differences between industries, such as steel and autos," said Tsuyoshi Tsuru, associate professor of economics at Hitotsubashi University's Institute of Economic Research in Tokyo. "A diversification of corporate performance is contradictory to a coordinated attack by unions."

For example, Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's top carmaker, which is weathering the recession better than expected, was offering a 3.06 percent wage increase, the lowest in the company's history. Yet, Nissan Motor, which is struggling to emerge from the red, is offering only a slightly lower increase of 2.89 percent. Japanese steelmakers earlier agreed to a meager 1.56 percent rise.

To maintain their authority in the face of slower growth in wages, unions have been moving away from a strict focus on winning salary increases to a broader agenda including calls for shorter working hours, lower income taxes and other benefits.

The broadened agenda has done little to prevent an erosion of union solidarity. Membership fell to 24.2 percent of employed workers in December, compared with 55.8 percent in 1959.

"The rank and file are disappointed because they find it very difficult to understand the long laundry list of union demands," Mr. Tsuru said.

Employees at several railroad companies such as Tokyu Corp., Sagami Railway and Hanshin are threatening to hold a series of 24-hour strikes starting Friday if their demands are not met.

TRADE: Kantor Warns Japan

Continued from Page 1

Japan to renegotiate its 1989 market-access agreement with Motorola Inc., so that the American telecommunications company would be accorded fair access to the Tokyo-Nagoya market.

"We are trying to be measured," Mr. Kantor said. "But we cannot back down because we cannot put the relationship on a profitable basis for both countries unless they open their markets. We understand

and from Greece and Bulgaria. The UN had been reluctant to accept Turkish troops for Bosnia because of centuries of Turkish Ottoman rule in the Balkans, which ended in the early 1900s.

Mr. Karadzic said the UN decision was "one among several other very dangerous precedents created in the Yugoslav crisis."

Greece, an ally of Serbia's, was reported to be considering offering its own soldiers as peacekeepers after the Security Council rejected its objections to the decision to approach the Turks.

In France, Students Are on a Rampage

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — They were long thought to be passive, indifferent to politics, and resigned to their lot, but suddenly French students are back in the streets, battling the police, challenging the government and demanding a voice in the country's affairs.

Born in Paris three weeks ago, the protests have spread quickly, with tens of thousands of students joining often violent demonstrations in a dozen other cities. On Wednesday, youths paralyzed a Paris railroad station for more than two hours and protesters in Lyon fought the police with baseball bats.

The movement was prompted by a government decree that allows employers to pay between 30 percent and 80 percent of the \$1,000 minimum monthly wage to those under 25. One person in four in this age group is out of work, and the government argues that the measure will encourage employers to hire young people.

But for those who have continued their studies in the belief that that would improve their job prospects, the decree is seen as a betrayal by a political system that channeled them into higher education and has now told them to lower their expectations.

"We're tired of being known as the generation that doesn't care about anything," said Loïc Isambert, 20, a Parisian studying business. "This movement is a pretext to express our general unhappiness."

[Thousands of young people defied government warnings of heavy punishment for troublemakers and took to the streets again on Thursday, Reuters reported.

[The police said about 6,000 young people marched through Lyon, ignoring warnings that individuals could be jailed for up to

seven years and fined 700,000 francs (\$120,000) each if the march led to disorders. The police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse the students.

[About 3,000 students in Valence, 90 kilometers (55 miles) to the south of Lyon, marched through the city. In nearby St. Etienne, about 100 youths blocked a bus and tram depot for about two hours. Hundreds of students also protested in Alpine towns, including Chambéry, Grenoble, Annecy, Annemasse and Chusey.]

With another demonstration planned for Paris on Friday, editorialists have even begun speculating that France may re-live the huge anti-government movement that paralyzed the country in May 1968 and eventually led to the resignation of President Charles de Gaulle.

So far at least, this movement is different. While May 1968 was inspired by the romantic ideal of changing the world, today's students have been mobilized by an attack on what a different generation considers its birthright — a secure and well-paying job.

For many students, then, the message is painfully clear. "We're going to be worse off than our parents," said Sylvain Aye, 19, a statistics student. "A minority will be much better off. But the great majority will be much poorer."

And the students are angry.

"This has nothing to do with 1968," said Renaud Gardaire, 20, who is studying statistics at the University Institute of Technology in Paris, where the movement began. "In 1968, the young rejected the consumer society. Now it's the opposite. We don't reject society; we want to join it."

This same cry can be heard across Western Europe where, despite the mood of prosperity

during the 1980s, economies have failed dramatically to generate enough jobs to keep up with new entrants into the labor force. And with the recession of the early 1990s, the situation has turned critical.

Unemployment among 16- to 25-year-olds stands at 30 percent in Italy, 25 percent in France, and 17 percent in Britain. In France, even with 2 million students in higher education, young people account for 22.6 percent of the unemployed (who currently total 3.3 million), up from 19.8 percent last year.

"Change the world?" asked Karine Lamey, 21, a statistics student. "It's impossible. The way things are, we have no chance of doing so. My dream is to have a good job and a family. Politics don't interest me. For me, left and right are the same. The government here changed, but nothing changed."

But the defiant mood in the amphitheater of the University Institute of Technology one morning this week suggested that something had changed. The students began an indefinite strike and, with 400 youths crowding the hall, plans for Friday's demonstration were being discussed.

Hélène Joubert, who has emerged as a leader of the movement, said it was important to avoid violence.

The movement's goal is to force the conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur to revoke the wage decree. The government has already excluded those with senior degrees for the wage reduction.

Further, having worked in the office of Georges Pompidou, who was the prime minister in May 1968, Mr. Balladur is said to be haunted by the specter of a new social explosion. But for the moment, officials say, he has decided to stand his ground and gamble that the movement will run out of steam.

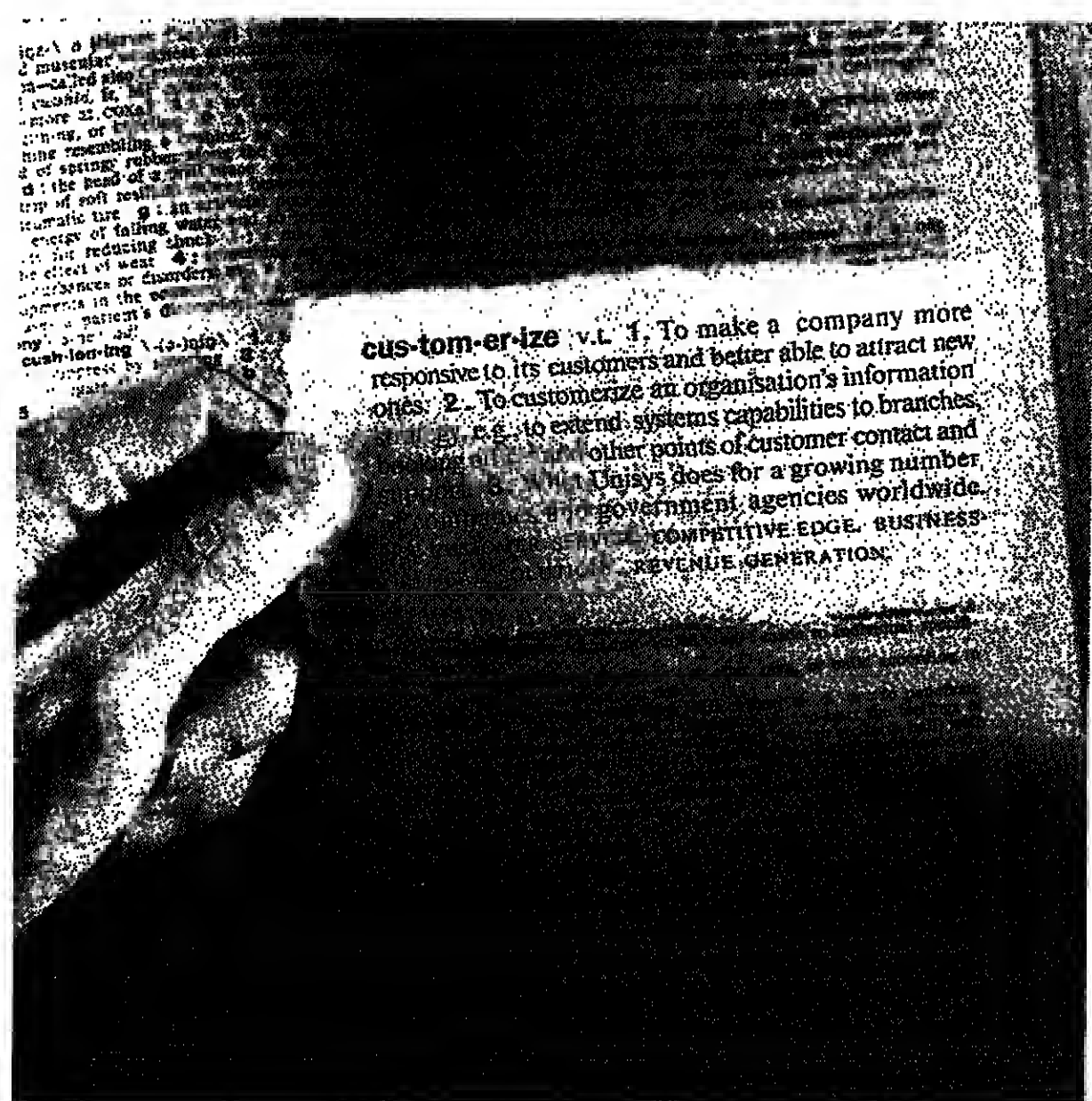
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Keeping Russia on Course

If Russia can tighten its budget deficit over the next month, the International Monetary Fund will lend it an additional \$1.5 billion in pay for imports. Both parts of that agreement are encouraging. Since the IMF is the instrument of the wealthy democracies, its offer suggests that the democracies have not abandoned active efforts to help Russia.

But the agreement also means that the Russian government has not abandoned reform. Most of the reformers resigned or were fired months ago, and as winter arrived it looked as though economic disaster was ahead. But while the economy is still in a state of chaos, policy continues much as before, and now Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is going to undertake another attempt to get revenues up and subsidies down.

The IMF struck its bargain with Mr. Chernomyrdin, not with President Boris Yeltsin. It is now the prime minister who is managing most of the Russian government's business and, apparently, making most of the decisions. The next step will be to persuade the Russian parliament to accept budget revisions that provide less money for all the outstretched hands. That will be difficult, for the parliament is full of people who are angry about economic

change and resentful of foreign advice. Mr. Chernomyrdin, former apparatchik that he is, will have a better chance than Mr. Yeltsin to bring the recalcitrant legislators along.

This loan of \$1.5 billion will hardly meet Russia's needs for long. But it is a key to getting much more. Narrowing the budget deficit will itself bring great benefits by lowering the inflation rate and moving the economy toward greater stability. The IMF loan will be a signal to the world that the Russians are moving in the right direction. With that, they can begin negotiating debt relief with the governments to which they owe money, and they can recruit more foreign investment.

There will never be enough foreign aid in the conventional form of grants and low-interest loans to finance the rebuilding of the Russian economy. But perhaps it will turn out that large amounts of aid are not required. Russia is, after all, a rich country with much industry and immense natural resources. Russia's prospects remain highly uncertain, but they are no longer as bleak as they seemed at the beginning of the winter. The West now needs to consider the next stage, and how best it can help maintain this progress.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Wrong Nuclear Policy

Under former Defense Secretary Les Aspin's leadership, the Pentagon put a high priority on curbing the spread of nuclear arms to other nations—and on reducing the role played by nuclear arms in Washington's own strategy. That policy made sense because the proliferation of nuclear weapons potentially poses a direct danger to the United States and its allies and because the Pentagon, with its overwhelming superiority in conventional arms, has no need to rely heavily on a nuclear arsenal that will only encourage other nations to emulate it.

Now Mr. Aspin's successor, William Perry, seems in turning this astute policy upside down. In a recent review of U.S. nuclear posture he established a role for nuclear arms: deterring and responding to chemical and biological threats. At first blush that seems reasonable enough. The United States is committed to global bans on chemical and biological weapons and to ridding itself of them. So why not use nuclear arms to counter any

use of these weapons by an adversary?

One reason is that the United States has no need to use nuclear arms for this purpose. It already has ample conventional force to counter chemical and biological threats. Ask Saddam Hussein, who did not dare use his chemical weapons in the Gulf war in anticipation of the allies' assault because he knew that if he did, nothing would stop them from occupying Baghdad and getting rid of him.

Worse yet, Mr. Perry's plan to have the Pentagon prepare for such nuclear contingencies would legitimize nuclear arms instead of stigmatizing them. Increasing the number of nuclear targets to include every suspected chemical and biological weapons site drives up the requirement for warheads.

The new policy reeks of a desperate effort to find any possible justification to maintain the Pentagon's huge but obsolescent nuclear arsenal. It would only encourage would-be proliferators to follow Mr. Perry's lead—backward.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Chance for the Warlords

The United Nations is plugging away at a thankless job left to it in Somalia by its member states. It is trying to induce the warlords to cooperate in filling the vacuum being created as the United States and other Western countries withdraw their last peacekeeping forces. The task involves abandonment of the civilian elders who were once touted as alternative leaders. Now the United Nations endorses the very men, formerly dismissed as "terrorists" and "criminals," whose feuds destroyed their country. The result, if it comes off, will be a long way from democracy. But no one sees any other possibility than to let the warlords have a political go.

It was, of course, the attempt of international interveners to disarm the warlords that precipitated the shooting that led Washington to pronounce its humanitarian mission accomplished and to set in motion its current "tactical redeployment." Some 20,000 peacekeepers from non-Western countries stay behind. Their mission is to set up a lightly armed national police and to ensure delivery of relief. There are many guns in the country and, in addition to

the heavily armed warlords, many hungry and undisciplined young men. It is uncertain whether the aid providers, or even the remaining peacekeepers, can be adequately protected. Bandits killed two Italian journalists last Sunday while trying to steal their vehicle.

To many Americans, U.S. responsibility in Somalia is a thing of the past. Somalia has become a "lesson" in discretion—go slow the next time a humanitarian emergency stirs thoughts of helpful intervention—not a place of engagement. There is not much more passion to be spent on a country that returned what Americans saw as their country's generous initiative with bullets and humiliation.

Yet the needs of Somalia's people are real. Relief has to be kept flowing, and so does development aid, to the extent that local conditions permit. The warlords are being given a rare opportunity to save and even reinvent their country, which at the moment lacks any governmental structure at all. On their capacity to work with each other hinges the future of Somalia.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Handling the Nuclear Issue

The North Koreans continue to taunt the rest of the world. Why is this?

One reason is that their intransigence [on nuclear inspections] has thus far been rewarded. In this the North Koreans have been helped by Washington's inability to distinguish between ends and means.

All along the Americans have put their faith in "talks," and the North Koreans have been happy to talk while fulfilling their outer ambitions. Seoul has spoken softly for fear of agitating Pyongyang. The result is that despite North Korea's many violations and broken promises it is Pyongyang that has been issuing demands—no joint South Korea-U.S. military exercises, no Patriot missiles—and not vice versa.

It is time to end the farce. Yes, demanding that Pyongyang comply with the nuclear rules could anger the unpredictable Kim Il-sung, one reason Seoul has hoped the issue could simply go away. At the moment the debate is over economic sanctions, which might have worked before the credibility of threats against Pyongyang wore so thin that it is less likely to have any effect today. Punitions are disappearing. History, however, remarkably consistent. The perennial lesson is that it is far better to stop bullies by whatever means are required before it is so

late that they must be stopped by whatever means are available.

—Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong).

North Korea's decision not to allow international inspectors to take samples from one of its declared atomic facilities has sharpened the nuclear controversy in the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang's action has only served to deepen suspicion that it is involved in nuclear proliferation.

Despite these gloomy developments, the United States and its allies should pursue patient diplomacy, while signaling to North Korea that it must not take its patience for granted. Since Pyongyang has painted itself into a corner, applying pressure on it or doing that too soon would raise the risk of confrontation, which must be avoided. War would be unthinkable.

But the United States also must realize that it needs to engage China more closely on the nuclear issue. As experience over the past year has shown, persuading North Korea to settle the issue will not be an easy task for Washington. Should sanctions against Pyongyang become unavoidable at a later stage, it will need Beijing's support not only to obtain the approval of the United Nations Security Council for such measures, but also to make them work.

—Straits Times (Singapore).



In Indonesia, Spielberg's 'List' Could Clean the Air

By Margot Cohen

JAKARTA—Steven Spielberg has an important decision to make about Indonesia, home of the world's largest Muslim population. The film director can uphold his aesthetic principles and withdraw "Schindler's List"—as he threatened to do in the Philippines—in the likely event that local censors snip out an offending sex scene. Or he can accept the cut and help combat the spread of anti-Semitism by exposing millions of Indonesians to the black-and-white horror of the Holocaust.

The Oscar-winning film arrives at a critical juncture. As in many other countries, emotion in Indonesia is running high over the massacre of Palestinians at Hebron. In recent weeks, Muslim youths have thronged the gates of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta and U.S. consulates in Medan and Surabaya, waving posters scrawled "Go to Hell With Your Jew" and "Jews Can't Be Trusted." Four Indonesian journalists were pilloried in the press as "Zionist spies" after accepting an Israeli government invitation to visit Tel Aviv recently and interview senior Israeli officials. A three-hour visit by Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, in October prompted fears of a "Jewish invasion," although the Indonesian government reiterated that diplomatic ties would not be established with Israel until the Palestinian question was settled.

Meanwhile, a recent wave of books and articles in Indonesia has aimed at fomenting hatred. Jews are said to "call on the supernatural power of Satan" when they worship in a synagogue. "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the notorious

turn-of-the-century Russian tract outlining a supposed Jewish conspiracy is presented in mainstream newspapers as fact rather than the fabrication of czarist police. Local bookstores in Jakarta display such gems as "76 Characteristics of the Jews," "The Western and Jewish Grudge Against Islam" and a host of others, mostly translated works from the Middle East.

"The descendants of Israel kept performing evil deeds, so finally they met with the horrifying retribution of Hitler's slaughter," writes Dr. Majid Kailany, author of "The Zionist Threat Against the Islamic World" (Jidda, 1984), published in Indonesia in 1991. "Allah will surely inflict even greater tortures, as was His promise... We are waiting for this promise to be fulfilled in the days to come." The slender paperback is in its second printing.

Why are such ideas catching on in a country long noted for its religious tolerance and moderate brand of Islam? Indonesia's ongoing Islamic revival has sparked a search for identity. For many people, this means greater participation in Islamic study groups, charities and business clubs. Others, however, find their new identity in symbols of Muslim pride. Anti-Semitism serves as a convenient device to express solidarity with other Muslims worldwide. After the Hebron massacre, that can all too easily translate into a formula that reads: Baruch Goldstein = All Israelis = All Jews.

The prejudice thrives in the absence of real, live Jewish faces. An empty synagogue in Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city, testifies to the smattering of Jews that once made a home in Indonesia. Jewish immigrants from Holland, Iraq, Singapore, Malaysia, Romania, Hungary and Poland worked in Indonesia as small traders or carved out a niche in medicine, engineering or law. By the 1950s, however, almost all of the 2,000 or so Jews had moved to Australia, the United States or Israel.

It would be a gross error to describe most Indonesians as anti-Semitic. Many prominent Muslim intellectuals deplore such sentiments. Large numbers of the 189 million people living in this vast country of more than 13,000 islands have barely heard of Judaism. Some Indonesian villagers assume it is an obscure branch of Christianity. Understandably, historical consciousness of the Holocaust is virtually nil.

This is the audience that awaits Mr. Spielberg's decision to release "Schindler's List," minus 30 seconds or so. By providing a human face to Judaism, the film might help alter the current image here of the Jew as Israeli murderer. It might resonate among Muslims enraged over "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia. It could, at least, dispel the impression that the director won his coveted Oscar thanks to the Jews who run Hollywood, backed by a worldwide Zionist network.

The writer, a journalist based in Jakarta, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Let Us Not Forget Those 'Righteous' Italian Saviors

By Ivo Herzog

WASHINGTON—Half a century after the Holocaust, the public and most Holocaust historians know little about the role of the Italians during that tragic period for Europe's Jews. How many know that from 1941 to 1943, the Italian army saved thousands of Croatian Jews and Serbs from certain death at the hands of the Croatian Ustashe.

In April 1941, Germany, Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria invaded and defeated Yugoslavia. The Axis powers dismembered Yugoslavia, establishing a fascist Croat state that included Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the fanatical nationalists, the Ustashe. Italy annexed most of Dalmatia and kept military garrisons in Croatia, Germany occupied Serbia; Slovenia was divided between Italy and Germany.

The Ustashe's unbounded hatred of Serbia and of all "foreign elements," such as Jews and Gypsies, was unleashed almost immediately after taking power. So swift and deadly was the Croatian roundup that by the end of 1941 two-thirds of Croatia's Jews were dying in Croatian death camps. Croatia was the only Nazi satellite with its own outposts of concentration camps. All the other satellite countries eventually turned over all their Jews to the Nazis, except Bulgaria, which delivered only foreign Jews.

I was among the 5,000 Croatian Jews who managed to reach the Italian-occupied zone in Dalmatia. My parents and I fled from Zagreb in July 1941 in hopes of crossing into the Italian zone. But Serb guerrillas attacked our train and we had to leave the train in the town of Gospić. Two other Jewish families joined us at the station. We had nowhere to turn for help except to Italian soldiers, who happened to pass by. Their sergeant saved our lives by putting us on a military train bound for the Italian zone. We came with us to make sure we crossed the border. We never knew his name. From Fiume, the Italian carabinieri took us to the resort town of Crkvenica on the Adriatic coast, headquarters of the Fifth Corps of the Italian Second Army, and freed us.

Nine days after our arrival we had the first proof of what turned out to be a consistent Italian attitude of humane consideration of our plight. The army lifted the curfew on Kipper services in a school room. Shortly before Christmas 1941, Italian entertainers came to town to perform for the troops, and the Italians invited all the Jewish refugees in Crkvenica as guests of honor. We were the only civilians present. As the band struck up the Italian national anthem and all rose, I saw tears in my father's eyes. He whispered to me, "If we survive the war we must never forget how the Italians saved Jews."

Our case was typical of the terrible summer of 1941, when the lower ranks of the Italian army acted spontaneously to save minorities in the Croat state from certain death. By October, the Italian policy to protect Serbs and Jews was clearly established by the military high command. By mid-1942 the late of the remaining Croatian Jews was sealed by a treaty between Germany and Croatia in which Croatia agreed to deliver all its remaining Jews to the Nazis

for 30 German marks per prisoner to cover transportation costs. Suddenly our lives were at stake, since the Germans and the Croats insisted that Croatian Jews in the Italian zone be included in the treaty.

Mussolini informed his Foreign Ministry he had no objection to having us delivered to the Nazis. But the commander of the Italian army in Croatia, General Mario Roatta, supported by his staff and senior officials in the Foreign Ministry, decided to sabotage Mussolini's decision. It was necessary, they insisted, to determine who among us might have a claim to Italian citizenship. It was a strategy of indefinite delay and it worked.

Against relentless German pressure, the Italian "rescue committee" decided to recommend that all of us be interned in camps, which they hoped would placate the Germans at least for a while. On Nov. 1, 1942, the Italian army interned all the Jews in the Italian zone. I was among the 1,770 refugees taken to the Kraljevica (Porto Re) camp. The others were luckier. The Italians placed them in hotels, often guarded by a single carabinieri.

We feared that the camp was the preliminary step to our transfer to the Germans, and two internees committed suicide. This induced General Roatta to visit us personally. He vowed that the Italian army would never deliver us to the Germans. General Roatta flew to Rome a few days later and succeeded in changing Mussolini's mind about handing us over.

The Kraljevica camp was certainly an unusual concentration camp. We had a building for social and religious activities. We organized an elementary and a high school; the army supplied textbooks. I still have the school reports, two pieces of yellowing paper, reminding me that under the Italian flag Jewish children studied history and Latin, philosophy and mathematics, while the Nazis were murdering thousands of Jewish children, unopposed by all of Europe.

Following the Allied victory in North Africa in 1943, the Italians knew that the Allies' next move was the invasion of Italy. At General Roatta's urging (he by that time had become the commander of Italian forces in metropolitan Italy) all the Jewish refugees were transferred to the island of Rab off the Dalmatian coast, which had been annexed by Italy. It was deemed safer for us.

After Italy surrendered in September 1943, the Italian army evacuated the island. The Allies, only a few hours from Rab, knew of our perilous position but refused to bring us to safety in southern Italy. Tito's Partisans occupied Rab and most of the refugees sought safety on the Partisan-controlled Yugoslav mainland. The Partisans concentrated the refugees who could not help the war effort near Topusko, where British transport aircraft landed daily with supplies. The British were reluctant to take Jews back to Italy, fearing that they would some day try to go to Palestine.

A Race to Asian Prosperity

CAN INDIA OUTPACE fast-growing China in economic liberalization? Both nations have huge populations—together they account for nearly 40 percent of the world's people—that work hard and achieve high rates of savings. Both have demonstrated successful entrepreneurship driven by materialistic ambition.

India, burdened by colonial memories, still suffers from a reflexive antipathy toward multinational corporations. Yet foreign investment will improve Indian industry's access to higher technology and bring modern managerial and marketing skills. It will stimulate domestic competition, which has been constricted by protectionism.

India needs to devote more resources in educating and training its people. Much of its bureaucracy, including money-losing state industries, remains hostile to foreign investment. The country's inflexible labor laws make it difficult and costly to shed excess labor. China outpaces India in all these respects, and so attracts much higher volumes of investment. Yet the policies of self-reliance followed by India after 1947 have provided the capacity to grow quickly, provided the economy now gets needed stimulus from foreign investors. India has indigenous entrepreneurs and high rates of domestic savings and capital formation. If the stifling regulatory regime can be lifted and the dead hand of the state removed, the country will be well positioned for rapid expansion.

However, China's economic liberalization program, begun in 1978, has a 13-year head start on India's. China also has Hong Kong, an invaluable source and conduit for foreign trade and investment with the mainland. China's gross domestic savings rate, at 39 percent of GDP, is almost double that of India's. Beijing's authoritarian rulers can break factory-floor militancy and forcibly keep wage rises below productivity increases.

There are other areas in which India has an edge over China. India already has the sort of grass-roots capitalism and consumer ethic from which a healthy market economy can grow. Official Indian statistics underreport this vibrant private sector. India's other advantages include a financial system that, while rudimentary, is more advanced than China's, a large professional class, an education system with established links to the English-speaking world, a well-developed framework of property rights and commercial law, an independent judiciary and a free press.

—Ramesh Thekum, professor of international relations and director of Asian studies at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

An Inquiry Without Paralysis

By Arthur L. Liman

NEW YORK—As Congress debates the timing and procedure of hearings on the Whitewater affair, people in both parties are citing the Iran-contra hearings as precedent.

But there is a big difference. The activities in Arkansas, years in the past, could not have involved abuses of power by a sitting president. Whatever one may think of allegations of a White House "cover-up," impeachment is not even a remote possibility. In the Iran-contra affair, by contrast, impeachment was much in the air. It was imperative that Congress determine as promptly as possible, and with immunity grants where necessary, whether there were grounds for removing the president.

Before Congress decided to investigate, there was a series of accusations and admissions of official wrongdoing or apparent abuse of power—from the revelation of an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran to the secret and illegal aid to the Nicaraguan rebels to the allegations of file shredding by Oliver North.

It was clear that grounds for impeaching Ronald Reagan would exist if he was implicated in either the diversion of funds or the cover-up. With new rumors each day, the government was paralyzed.

Fortunately, Daniel Inouye, the Hawaii Democrat who was chairman of the Senate Iran-contra committee, shaped the inquiry in a way that reflected his love of country and respect for constitutional processes.

Mr. Inouye is one of America's great war heroes and patriots. As long as the possibility of impeachment existed, there was no room in his mind for partisanship.

His mandate to us was unambiguous. If there were grounds to impeach President Reagan, we should seek to discover and establish them promptly. If there was no proof of an impeachable offense, we had an obligation to make that clear so the president would be free to complete his term.

The Iran-contra inquiry quickly found that all possible roads to the president led through three national security aides: Robert McFarlane, John Poindexter and Mr. North. Without their testimony, Congress could not determine whether there was proof of an impeachable offense. To avoid the independent counsel's investigation, which might take years, was not an option. The president would have been long gone from office.

To accommodate the independent counsel, Mr. Inouye tried to persuade the key witnesses that it was their patriotic duty to testify without immunity. Mr. McFarlane did so, but Mr. Poindexter and Mr. North were unwilling to waive their Fifth Amendment privileges. Congress had no choice but to give them immunity.

We delayed their testimony, nevertheless, until the independent counsel could seal his evidence against them. Even if the congressional committees had been able to anticipate that the grants of immunity would later lead the U.S. Court of Appeals to overturn the criminal convictions of Mr. North and Mr. Poindexter, they still made the right decision.

There was simply no other way of determining whether the president should be impeached. It was far more important to resolve that issue promptly than to ensure that the two men could be prosecuted.

One often hears it said that the congressional investigation of Iran-contra was inconclusive and that congressional hearings on any complex subject are doomed to similar fate. But the independent counsel reached the same conclusion in his 1994 report as the congressional committees did in 1987. There was no proof of criminal action by the president.

In Whitewater, with no prospect of impeachment, Congress does not have the same need to hold hearings immediately, but it does have the same need for the Inouye spirit of bipartisanship and fairness.

Congress has no need to give immunity and can accommodate the special counsel, Robert Fiske, so his inquiry is not impeded.

Congressional hearings addressed to core issues of integrity are the only way to end unfair speculation and let the president move ahead without waiting for the counsel to complete all aspects of his investigation.

The Inouye principle, that an impeached president should be allowed in government with the air cleared, is the central lesson Iran-contra offers for Whitewater.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1894: Harbor Diplomacy

NEW YORK—It is said that one reason why Rear-Admiral Walker is being sent to Honolulu is because diplomatic complications are expected over President Dole's objection to the United States occupation of Pearl Harbor. This is a point upon which President Cleveland's Administration will insist. Pearl Harbor is a very important naval coaling station, the concession for which was granted exclusively to the United States some years ago.

1919: Lenin Seeks Allies

PARIS—According to latest despatches from Russia the Lenin Government is making efforts with a view to the formation of a Germano-Russian alliance. On the one hand, says the "Temps," Lenin is supporting the Spartacist movement in Germany because he realizes that the success of this movement would automatically bring about the desired alliance. In

case the Spartacists fail, however, he is negotiating with Ebert's Government. The latest news from Moscow is to the effect that, although the Germano-Russian alliance is not yet an accomplished fact, its conclusion may be expected in the immediate future.

1944: Germans Routed

LONDON—[From our New York edition:] Russia's 1st Ukraine Army broke through to the Dniester River at the Balicea gateway city of Zaleschiki yesterday (March 24), killing 20,000 Germans and capturing 3,500 in a four-day offensive which put the Red Army within five miles of the former Rumanian province of Bukovina and sixty miles from Old Czechoslovakia, a Moscow communication announced last night. The 62-mile flanking smash below Tarnopol threatened to trap thousands of battered German troops in the east part of the fifty German divisions already threatened with encirclement in the Odessa, the Soviet command announced.

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 46.37.93.00. Fax: Cmc, 46.37.06.51. Adv., 46.37.52.12. Internet: IHT@eurcom.fr
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 50 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 0511. Tel. (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Ing. Dir. Asia: Rolf D. Knappe, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-9222-1188. Fax: 852-9222-1190
Ing. Dir. U.K.: Piers Dacre, 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LQ. Tel. (071) 836-4803. Fax: (071) 240-2254
Gen. Mgr. Germany: W. Lauterbach, Friedrichstr. 15, 10117 Berlin. Tel. (030) 77 67 53. Fax: (030) 77 75 10
U.S.: Michael Conway, 650 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 732-3890. Fax: (212) 735-8785
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O P I N I O N

Whatever He Got in China,
The Secretary Got It Right

By William Safire

CHICAGO — "We put Wei Jing-sheng behind bars, didn't we?" sneered Deng Xiaoping in 1979, when an aide suggested a crackdown on dissidents might not be in China's interests. "Did that damage China's reputation?"

The paramount leader was mistaken. The jailing of Mr. Wei, the young editor of an unauthorized magazine who led the abortive "Democracy Wall" movement, severely damaged China's reputation — and the incarceration did not stop the protest in Tiananmen Square a decade later.

Last year, in a significant gesture, Mr. Deng approved the release of China's leading prisoner of conscience a year before the end of his sentence. Like Nelson Mandela, Mr. Wei emerged from his cell unbroken; like Andrei Sakharov, he became an embodiment of the value of freedom, and one day will be a Nobel laureate.

Last month John Shattuck, assistant U.S. secretary of state for human rights, held a low-key meeting with Mr. Wei in Beijing. This was not provocative; on the contrary, future generations will see it as the most significant Chinese-American contact since Zhou Enlai and Richard Nixon shook hands in 1972.

The Chinese leaders wanted to register their displeasure at this diplomatic deference to a dissident. They also wanted to display their machismo (do the Chinese have a word for machismo?) in the face of a U.S. promise to end most-favored-nation trade status unless substantial progress was shown on human rights.

They harassed Mr. Wei and rounded up other dissidents. On the eve of a visit from Secretary of State Warren Christopher, this could only be taken as a calculated insult to the United States.

What was the reaction? Incredible. American business executives in China took the side of the Chinese government against the United States, berating Mr. Christopher for jeopardizing their profits with this silly business about democracy.

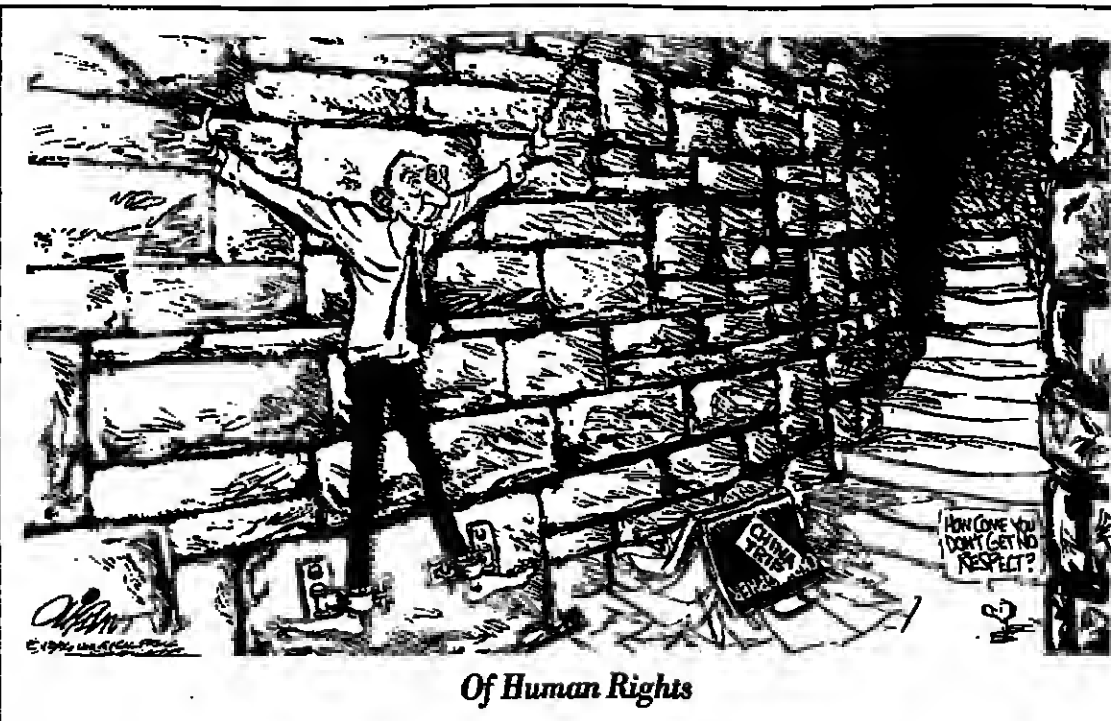
American editorialists booed at Mr. Christopher for not aborting the trip at the first sign of Beijing's displeasure — as if cutting and running would have impressed the Chinese with U.S. resolve.

Back in Washington, the cabinet members Lloyd Bentsen and Ron Brown undermined the U.S. position by talking MFN compromise; the national security adviser backgrounded a split-the-difference proposal; and White House aides down-mounted Mr. Christopher while the president waffled.

Even State Department bureaucrats, trying to "protect" their boss from appearing tough-minded, sawed the limb off behind him.

"What Christopher's critics didn't know," Time magazine was led to report, "is that the advance foray el that so irritated the Chinese was carried out without Christopher's knowledge."

That's a baloney-leak. The secretary did know in advance about Mr. Shattuck's meeting with Mr. Wei, approved it, and has off to him for it. Having zapped Mr. Christopher for Bosnia, the secretary of the secretary of state is to America's sovereignty.



Of Human Rights

I can hardly fault him now for guttily asserting U.S. policy to the Chinese.

China is not such a tender bamboo shoot that it cannot be dealt with pragmatically. Linkage of trade preferences to progress on prison labor, emigration, jamming of the Voice of America, Red Cross visits to jails and other criteria is a fact — an executive order backed by Congress. It is no more a challenge to China's sovereignty than Beijing's uncharacteristically mal-adroit treatment of the secretary of state is to America's sovereignty.

Chinese negotiators strike postures just as Americans do. To some of them, "soft on dissent" is like the old American charge of "soft on communism," but in the end the Chinese deal with realities. One of these is the strange American preoccupation with more freedom for human beings everywhere.

I have a hunch Mr. Christopher got something from the Chinese at the last minute, not yet revealed, that will be the basis for face-saving leading to the extension of MFN — provided the distracted Bill Clinton whips foreign-policy

freelancers into line. (If he refuses, Mr. Christopher should quit.)

China's longtime "foreign friends" — Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, George Bush, Winston Lord, all of us — should send this word to Beijing: A nervous crackdown on dissenters is a telltale sign of instability, which is what China fears most as the Deng era comes to an end. The durability, self-confidence and security of a government can be measured by its toleration of peaceful dissent.

The New York Times

The Tough Line Plays Well,
But Will It Really Help?

By Ellen Goodman

SAN FRANCISCO — I have never been a fan of jock-talk in political life. The endless campaign lingo about slam-dunking opponents and hitting questions out of the ballpark has left me on the sidelines.

But I am even more uncomfortable when sporting life stops being a metaphor and starts becoming public policy.

MEANWHILE

This is exactly what is happening with the new favorite anti-crime legislation that is known as "three strikes and you're out." This is criminology according to Abner Doubleday.

At heart, the Three Strikes bills are meant to send third-time felons — in some places, violent felons, in other places, all felons — to jail for life without parole. This is an idea that is popular with everyone from Governor Pete Wilson of California to Governor Mario Cuomo of New York. It is even popular with President Bill Clinton.

The first of the proposals passed a Washington state referendum last fall. A second variation on the law went into effect in California two weeks ago. It mandates 25 years to life or triple the usual sentence, whichever is more. There are bills or ballot initiatives in 30 state legislatures and both branches of Congress. Georgia, not to be outplayed, just passed a bill that will put a Two Strikes proposal on the state ballot next fall.

I am not surprised at the cheers this idea has received. The real national

pastime — one that I share — is watching and worrying about crime. Crime may not be on the rise in the statistics. But it is on the rise among the young. It also is on the rise in the news and in the polls that track Americans' concerns. Three Strikes laws have become the easiest way for legislators to prove that they are on the people's team.

But life is more complicated than baseball and so is crime. Not every felon warrants the same punishment. Some first crimes deserve much harsher sentences than they get. Some third crimes deserve lighter sentences than Three Strikes would mandate.

In Washington state, for example, Cecil Emile Davis and Larry Lee Fisher were caught under the same new law. Mr. Davis had attacked two people with an ice pick and severely beaten two others before he was picked up for allegedly kidnapping, raping and cutting another woman's throat. Mr. Fisher was charged for the third time with robbing a store. He took off with \$151 after telling the clerk that the finger in his pocket was a gun. None of his crimes involved violence. Do they both deserve the same life sentence?

James Alan Fox, the dean of criminal justice at Northeastern University, puts it this way: "Punishments should not just fit the crime, but the criminal."

That subtlety is rapidly being lost. Under the proposed Georgia law, two-time losers as young as 13 could become lifers. Under one Illinois bill, someone who was caught passing three bad checks three times in a year could be jailed forever.

If Three Strikes sounds like it's tough on crime, it is really tough on judges. And even on police.

A law that makes sentences mandatory rather than presumptive, an absolute rather than a general rule, takes away the judges' role in sentencing. The law in California has police worried about facing desperate criminals with two strikes and nothing to lose. It has others talking about geriatric prisons filled with people whose crime prime is long past.

Will these elders fill space that should be left for younger, active criminals? Will less dangerous people use up money that should be allocated to — if the word may be spoken before today's filled and angry henchmen — crime prevention?

No politicians want to face charges that they let any criminals walk — into their town. But to be rational about crime, criminals — first, as well as third-timers — should indeed be punished harshly. They should be punished according to the quality of their crimes, not just the quantity.

I'm afraid it's going to take a whole league of brave legislators to step up to that plate.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Basis, Still, for Peace

Regarding "The Chance for Mideast Peace Is Collapsing" (Opinion, March 11) by Flora Lewis:

Notwithstanding my considerable respect for Ms. Lewis's views on international affairs, I found myself in disagreement with her particularly gloomy prognosis for the Arab-Israeli peace process following the tragic Hebron massacre.

While the peace process clearly has suffered a setback, Israeli and Palestinian leaders recognize that a way must be found to move forward, lest the talks collapse and any hope to move beyond a century of conflict be eradicated.

This recognition that a unique moment exists, and that a basis for progress has been established, first in Madrid, later in Oslo, will, I believe, prove more powerful in spurring the talks forward than the forces, however considerable and unpredictable, seeking to destroy the process.

DAVID A. HARRIS,
New York

Remember Burma

In response to the report "U.S. Takes a Harder Line on Burma" (March 14) and "Don't Appear Rangoon" (Opinion, March 14):

Unfortunately, until a recent spate of articles brought on by the visit of U.S. Congressman William Richardson to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the world has had too little access to details of the miserable situation in Burma.

Not enough people know about the outrageously brutal treatment of its citizens by the military junta illegally in power, the so-called State Law and Order Restoration Council, which held elections, then voided the results when the opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi won by an overwhelming majority.

The regime put her under house arrest, (where she has been for nearly five years, just extended to six); it imprisoned, tortured or killed other political opponents; it hied the country of its resources, leaving citizens with little food, medicine or fuel, so it could spend billions on weapons to keep its opponents under control; and shipped citi-

zens off to the wilderness to haul weapons for the military or do forced labor on the railroads and highways that will take Burma's virgin teak wood and gems to Thailand and China to exchange for foreign currency for weapons.

The regime, in short, has turned Burma into a house of horrors.

DOROTHY A. PEDTKE,
Kobe, Japan.

Pressure Whom?

Regarding "Help Macedonia Pressure Greece if Necessary" (March 18, Opinion) by George Soros:

Greece has earned its place in the world through heavy sacrifices, both human and material, throughout its history. I find it difficult to understand why its natural allies should help the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to become a nation by borrowing Greek historical names and symbols. FYROM's constitution has remnants of the aggressive policies of Tito, claiming to unite the whole of the geographic region of Macedonia at the expense of Greece.

It must be remembered that the last

war fought by Greece was against Communist guerrillas who were given safe haven in Skopje.

Skopje declares its nationhood at the expense of Greece.

DIMITRI SERBOS,
Rome.

War in the Living Room

I saw it while eating breakfast. It was another television report on Bosnia. More bombing, more civilians creeping through the streets ready to run at the sound of sniper fire, more pockmarked buildings. The camera focused on a girl 14 or 15 years old, standing with her mother. They looked too calm and cheerful to be in the middle of a war.

The girl had a patch on her eye. The voice-over translated: She had lost her eye in a mortar attack. The girl smiled as she started to explain this. She said she was sorry to hear that a UN convoy had been blocked. She had been hoping that they would bring her a glass eye. She tried to keep her smile, but couldn't. Her mother reached out for her. The girl wept in her mother's arms.

The scene then changed to the same old faces sitting around a negotiating table somewhere. But all I could think of was that girl. While girls elsewhere were worrying about who was going to take them to the prom, she was probably wondering how any boy would be able to look at her again. I had not shed one tear during this war in a faraway land. But as I watched her smile melt away, her brave front crumble, the impact of the atrocity finally made its way into my living room. And I cried with both my eyes.

JAMES GALLA,
Vichy, France.

Shock Treatment for Japan

Regarding "Great Powers Shouldn't Play Chauvinistic Games" (Opinion, March 7) by Philip Bowling:

Mr. Bowling says that the Clinton administration's revival of Super 301 has generated considerable sympathy for Japan in such improbable quarters as Seoul and Brussels.

The Seoul authorities have expressed concerns over the reintroduction of Super

301, not out of sympathy for Tokyo in trade disputes between the United States and Japan, but because it is against GATT rules barring unilateralism and managed trade. Requests for reducing huge trade imbalances have been made to Japan not only by the United States and the European Union but by such Asian countries as South Korea and Taiwan.

Many Asians are convinced that the barriers and impediments will never be lifted if Japan is left to do so voluntarily. Historically, outside pressures and shock treatments have served their purposes in dealing with Japan. I do hope that Super 301 will do the same in further opening the Japanese market.

D. S. KIM,
Seoul.

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T2 Class Champion

1994 Paris-Dakar-Paris Rally

1993 Pharaohs Rally

1993 Baja Aragon Spain

1993 Bojo Portugal

1993 Baja Sardinia

1993 Atlas Rally

1993 Rally of Tunisia

1993 Paris-Dakar

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CREATING TOGETHER

A Museum for Kids of All Ages

By Susan Keselenko Coll

LONDON — If all of the 2.5 million cars in this city were parked end to end, the resulting queue would stretch for thousands of miles. Last week was no exception for Londoners who flocked to the Transport Museum in London, a place that has been around since 1924.

Recently reopened after a \$4 million (\$6 million) overhaul, this Covent Garden museum may not be the city's most highbrow of pit stops, but it is certainly one of the most fun. In crisp, brighter environs, the museum houses an array of vehicles, many of which are kept in working order, and traces the history of modern transport from the first regular horse bus service in 1829 to the creation of the modern Underground tube system.

Judging by the crowds, the most popular

feature is the chance to simulate command of a city bus (that's an Optare Metroliner, for bus aficionados) or a Circle Line subway car; but be prepared to arm wrestle a schoolchild for a turn in the driver's seat. Should one's patience wear thin while waiting, there are nearly 100 other interactive and audiovisual activities as well as several costumed characters roaming about, giving on-the-spot lectures on subjects such as street sweeping and tunnel digging.

This is undeniably a museum with a message, and visitors are advised in one of many short films that the solutions to solving transport problems lie not in new technology, but in attitudes toward utilizing public transportation. The bus gets high marks here: cheap, flexible, and not requiring much in the way of infrastructure — "the humble bus may turn out to be one of our best hopes for the future," we are told.

London commuters might take note of an 1887 photograph that suggests traffic snarls are nothing new. A scene of the London

Bridge shows a familiar, congested mess, but the culprits are horse-drawn vehicles. Even these presumably "greener" days were not without their headaches: horse power created a pollution problem to the tune of 1,000 tons a day of waste deposited on the streets of London.

There are other interesting bits of trivia to be learned. The first escalator in London, for example, was built for Harrods department store, while the first installed in the tube system was on the Underground at Earl's Court. One can learn something of the history of the elevator, as well, with miniature exhibits that allow one to view the inner mechanisms at work.

The museum also houses two small galleries. "Laughter Line" features cartoonists' views of London and its public transport from 1747 to the present, giving insight into how the two World Wars affected services. The exhibit also shows that the transport management has a sense of humor about its own shortcomings. One cartoon depicts empty trains at various slack hours of the day; under the drawing of a jam-packed train the caption reads: "... everyone perversely likes to travel" at the same moment.

The second gallery contains the exhibit "By Underground to Kew," which consists of a selection of posters commissioned over 85 years to promote the Royal Botanic Gardens as a destination.

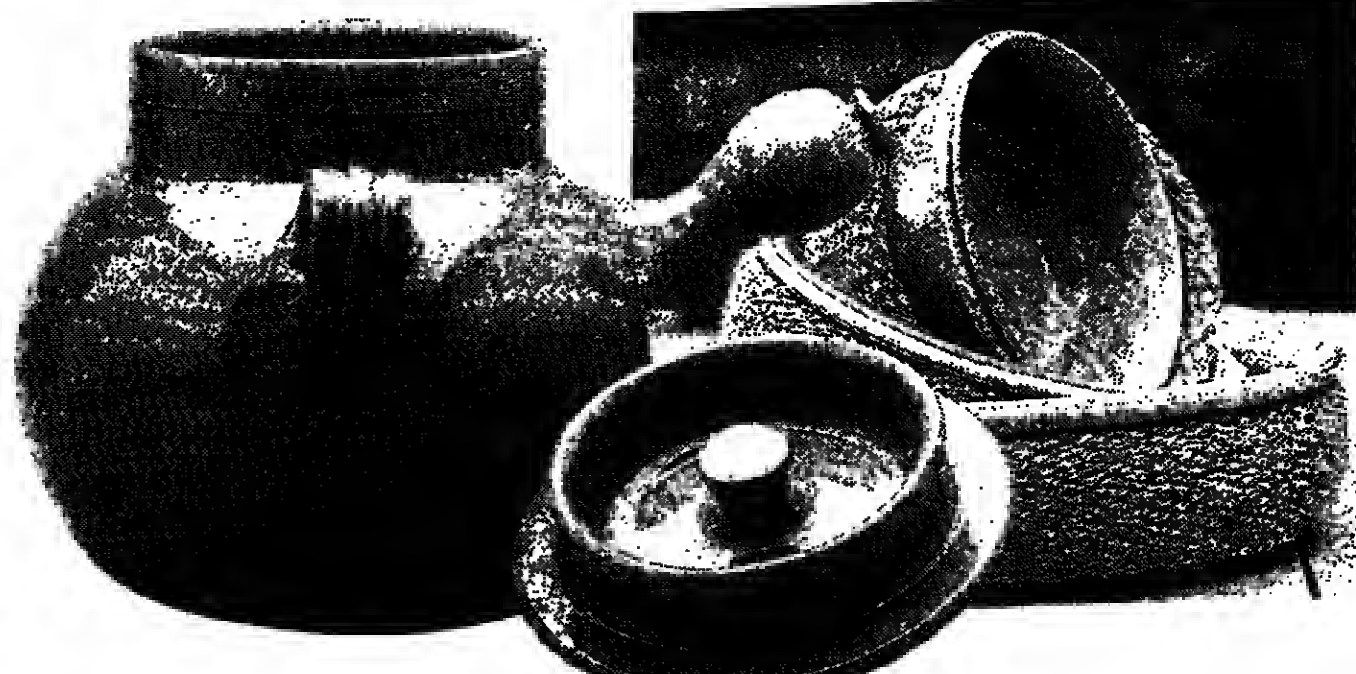
Which brings one to the inevitable gift shop, where many of these posters are available. Other collectibles include "mind the gap" T-shirts, coffee mugs emblazoned with the name of one's favorite tube line, and Underground toothbrushes. And for the more serious of mind, choose from an assortment of video tapes that include "Trolleybus Days in Belfast," and "Glasgow Trams, The Final Years."

The warm, cozy feeling one gets about public transport is stretched a bit at the nearby tube station, however. As rats scurry across the track and an announcement advises delays because of a security alert, one has ample time to reflect on that carbon monoxide-spewing car sitting idly, at home.

Susan Keselenko Coll is a free-lance writer living in London.



Some of the historic buses in the Transport Museum in London.



A daubière and traditional gratin dishes in nests of coco matting, from Terres à Terre in Vallauris.

Vallauris: No Nostalgia, Just Pots

By Christopher Petkanas

VALLAURIS, France — Vallauris is nobody's idea of heaven, least of all those whose heartstrings are vulnerable to Gerald Murphy's Fitzgerald-era memoirs. In other words, don't come with dewy eyes. The last thing that is satisfied around here is nostalgia. This is true even if the only experience you are guilty of wanting to renew is having a salad noisette, even if it was born 18 miles up the fabled coast.

It has come to that: bottled vinaigrette in a town that since antiquity has been known for its culinary pottery. Sometimes for better and often for worse, ceramics is still what it is all about in Vallauris, which for tourists purposes is always lumped together with Golfe-Juan, a mile or so away on the water. Golfe-Juan was a footnote in history when Napoleon disembarked there in 1815 after his exile on Elba and before taking off for Grenoble.

Like many one-job towns, Vallauris is heavy, sad, thwarted. What is worst in its ceramics is the so-called *faisance d'art*, frequently grotesque, never more so than at the megaboutique off the main drag run by the actor Jean Marais. This road, Avenue Georges Clemenceau, a high celebration of cement, scissors through the town like one endless aisle in a hypermarket, leaving the often atmospheric side streets, hung with drying laundry for the postcards promise and the way daytrippers are supposed to like it, unexplored. Depressingly, the kind of *faisance d'art* represented by spidery little iron tables faced with bloblike sunburst tiles is a much hotter ticket than the *daubières*, earthenware pots with swollen bellies that are crucial for making long-percolating daubes.

And yet some people know a good thing when they see one. According to René Figueroa of the shop Terres à Terre, in the choked summer months Americans vacationing in Cannes waste no time hiring taxis and racing up to stock up on his traditional gratin dishes. For oven-to-table service, the dishes slip neatly into nests of coco matting, a material that has its origins in Provence in the disk-shaped *sourcins* used for filtering

olive oil and, now, as doormats and floor coverings.

You'd probably never notice them among all the junk, but Le Baromètre has a reserve of leftover *daubières* from 1943; they are a terrific buy. In the realm of olive wood, the Boutique de l'Olivier has attractive free-form salad bowls, salad servers, mortars and pestles, cheese boards and pepper mills with the essential Peugeot grinding mechanism. Skip the lamp shades with dried flowers.

One of the attractions of cooking in earthenware is that it has what cooks like to call a "memory" — that is, the first clay retains the fragrance of what is cooked in it and passes on this history each time the vessel is used. In this way it is not unusual for a *daubière* to absorb the scent of the dried ope mushrooms that often figure in recipes for daube. In "Richard Olivier's Provence: The Beautiful Cookbook" (Collins), an important new work by the distinguished Iowa-born food authority, he writes, "A daube prepared in anything else never tastes as good as a daube simmered for hours in a *daubière* in which, over the years, hundreds of daubes have simmered for thousands of hours."

No shop in Vallauris is more intimately tied to what made the town great than Foucaud-Jourdan, the best address for the *potiers*, stoneware-handled casseroles, that are the basis of the Provençal *bouillabaisse de cuisine*. And for lore and perspective no one surpasses the owner, Françoise Foucaud, who remembers her grandmother "soldering" cracked *potiers* by scraping the fissures with garlic, the juice drying to a reinforcing pellicle, and who says she extinguished the town's last wood-burn-

ing kiln, in 1984. With the wood ovens went the lovely old glazes, irregular and human. Yven Koenig, who makes dazzling faience inspired by Muslim mosaic work in the tradition of his wife's grandfather, Jean Gerbino, says one reason wood was banished was because it was noisome.

Vallauris owes its reputation to the superb refractory qualities of the local clay. Production peaked in 1886: 16,530 tons of cookware, 56 *potiers*, a market extending from Algeria to Greece to the Americas. Heart-breaking turn-of-the-century postcards show piles of vessels, glazed on the inside and unglazed on the outside, on the wharf at Golfe-Juan waiting to be loaded for shipping. In 1938 the threat of aluminum, enameled iron and Pyrex was felt. The next year many ateliers were occupied by troops. In 1945 Vallauris was challenged not only by the efficiency and convenience of metal but by the mounting popularity of electricity and gas, heat sources with which earthenware is unsuited for direct contact.

THE year 1946 turned Vallauris on its ear forever. On July 26, Picasso put his head through the door of Ramie's Madoura studio, introducing himself "with the radiant simplicity of a medieval pilgrim." Of his time with the artist, who went on to produce his large body of ceramics with him, Ramie added, "No matter how many watches Picasso handed us, we were still barely able to give him the correct time."

In many ways Vallauris's vulgarity and sinister cash-and-carry atmosphere is the price paid today for Picasso's sojourn. People vaguely associate the place with him, head up for a look and then forget why they came. Picasso decided how many could be made of each of his pieces (25 to 500) and Ramie's son Alain is engaged in the business of selling them. Prices start at 2,500 francs (about \$430) for an unglazed terra-cotta tile stamped with a face in an edition of 500.

"Ceramics are our postcards," says Koenig. "People buy them in Vallauris the same way they buy a statue of the Virgin in Lourdes or a can of cassoulet in Carcassonne."

Christopher Petkanas is writing a history of the New York decorating firm Parish-Hadley.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

The Hudsucker Proxy

Directed by Joel Coen. U.S.

"The Hudsucker Proxy" begins with a lush, romantic image of a New York City that never was. Heavy snow falls as the camera moves in among a crush of skyscrapers that stand as symbols of progress and glamour. On a ledge, ready to jump, is Norville Barnes (Tim Robbins). Like the cityscape around him, like everything else in the visually stunning and funny new film by Joel and Ethan Coen, Norville is a pop-culture myth straight out of old movies. Although the story is set in 1928, the look and the dialogue and the plot evoke films of the '30s and '40s. Historical accuracy means nothing when you're fondly retelling legends built by Frank Capra, Preston Sturges and Howard Hawks. As the film flashes back, it is instantly clear that Norville is the Capraesque little guy. An innocent from Muncie, Indiana, he arrives in New York and gets

a job in the mail room of giant, bearded Hudsucker Industries.

The next day, he is his president, Jennifer Jason Leigh plays a smart-talking girl reporter named Amy Archer, and Paul Newman the ruthless executive Sidney J. Mussburger, who decides that Hudsucker company executives must depress the stock so they can buy it cheaply and gain control of the company. "The Hudsucker Proxy" is likely to evoke the standard complaint about the Coens, Joel directs, Ethan produces and they co-write their scripts, this time with Sam Raimi. They are accused of being cold, and so they are. They don't mean to create realistic, fuzzy-warm people. What they love is genres, and they reserve their warmth for the styles of old movies. Their "Blood Simple" is revived film noir, "Miller's Crossing" a poet-ic gangster tale and "Barton Fink" 1940s naturalism. To appreciate the Coens, it is necessary to delight in their films' styl-

ized, surface charms. Those charms are abundant in "Hudsucker," which is a shrewd comedy valentine to the kind of movies they don't make anymore.

(Caryn James, NYT)

The Ref

Directed by Ted Demme. U.S.

"The Ref" begins on Christmas Eve when a pretty girl named Gus (Dennis Leary) attempts to bail himself out of a botched burglary by taking hostages. Unfortunately, his prisoners turn out to be Caroline and Lloyd Chace (Judy Davis and Kevin Spacey), a constantly bickering husband and wife. They never stop, these two; even tied to a chair, they snap at each other viciously, driving Gus, who's not in a very good mood himself, to the point where he is ready to add murder to his rap sheet. The premise is flimsy to begin with, and the movie never develops much beyond it. Caroline and Lloyd indulge themselves in what sounds like the verbal equivalent of flying — every put-down takes off a layer of skin — while Gus, who's supposedly in charge, tries to get a word in edgewise. To their credit, the actors do their best to make something out of the material they've been given. But while Spacey and Davis are both talented (and underrated) actors, they are forced to raise the ugly levels of their performances too high too soon, and they can't sustain the effort. Leary is

more problematic. A stand-up comic trying to translate his impatience, hipster editorializing to the big screen, he doesn't have the modulation of a trained actor, only one speed (fast) and one mode of attack (loud).

(Hal Hinson, WP)

Monkey Trouble

Directed by Franco Amurri. U.S.

On screen, Harvey Keitel has done things that would shock you so hard (as the phrase goes) they'd kill your whole family. So what is Keitel doing in a family movie? In "Monkey Trouble," he lurches through the role of a snaggled-toothed, grey-haired Gypsy organ grinder whose monkey has special pickpocketing skills. Wonders never cease: Keitel turns out to be innocently funny this time. And "Monkey Trouble" is one of those rare children's films to which you can actually take small children. Falling loosely into the Swell New Pet genre (think "Beethoven"), "Monkey Trouble" tells what happens when the Gypsy's monkey runs away. He is found and nicknamed Dodge by Eva Gregory (Thora Birch), a girl who could use a secret friend. The director, Franco Amurri ("Flashback"), holds the interest and avoids the saccharine. He is helped in the latter area by Keitel, who comes across as refreshingly surly, never more so than when he turns up in a Harvard T-shirt while intently following the monkey's trail.

(Janet Maslin, NYT)

THE MONKEY INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO THE ASTONISHED GUESTS by swinging from tree to tree in the lush tropical gardens beneath the balconies of their first floor suites. He made his surprise appearance last month, and has reputedly now made Raffles Hotel his home.

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DENG XIAOPING AND THE MAKING OF MODERN CHINA
By Richard Evans. 339 pages.
\$27.95. Viking.

ELDEST SON:
Zhong Enlai and the Making of Modern China, 1898-1976
By Han Suyin. 483 pages.
\$27.50. Hill and Wang.

Reviewed by Anne F. Thurston

THE impending death of Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount but unofficial leader, will plunge the China into a crisis of legitimacy. The last of the heroic Long March generation, who struggled to bring the Communist revolution to victory, Deng is also the last of the men who stood with Mao Zedong atop Tiananmen Gate on Oct. 1, 1949, to proclaim that the people had taken control. And he is the architect of the policy of economic reform and opening to the West that has brought China a decade of economic growth averaging almost 9 percent a year and resulted in a dramatic increase in the standard of living of millions of Chinese people. He will be sorely missed, as the former British ambassador to China, Sir Richard Evans, points out in "Deng Xiaoping and the Making of Modern China." His passing will occasion reflection on what nearly 45 years of Communist Party rule has meant. Who can explain why the sacrifices, measured in tens of millions of lives, were necessary? These two books do not answer that question. Instead, they tell us why it will be asked.

With the coming to power of the Communists, when China's doors were closed to the West, Han Suyin (who was born in China, has lived much of her life in the West and is the author of the best-selling "A Many Splendored Thing") became one of a handful of officially recognized "foreign friends" with access to ranking leaders, including Zhou Enlai, who is the subject of her latest book, "Elders Son."

Zhou Enlai is the most enigmatic of China's revolutionary leaders. Handsome, sophisticated, intelligent and urbane, he was loved by

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Jimmy Carter, the former U.S. president, is reading "How Does a Poem Mean?" by John Ciardi and Miller Williams, and other books on poetry theory.

"I read one or more books every week. I have a book of poems to be published late this year."

(Brian Kowit, IHT)

the Chinese and respected in the West. After his death in 1976, when radical forces refused to allow Zhou to be properly mourned, grieving Beijing citizens converged on Tiananmen Square in the largest outpouring of popular sentiment the People's Republic had ever seen.

What makes Zhou enigmatic is the nearly universal perception that he was the most humane of China's Communist leaders and the fact that he never openly challenged the gross inhumanity of Communist Party rule. Han Suyin provides chilling evidence that Zhou was actively engaged from the very beginning in the witch hunts that became emblematic of China under Mao.

The most notable enigma of Zhou's life is his role in Mao's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), which left the Communist Party decimated and in which hundreds of thousands were exiled, imprisoned, or killed. Zhou was a moderating force. But no one was more loyal to Mao, and he never challenged the Cultural Revolution Mao set in motion.

With the death of Mao and the ascension of Deng Xiaoping, China's official passions reverted from revolution to modernization.

Deng is less colorful than either Mao or Zhou, and his path to leadership was far less certain. Evans's account is most interesting after Deng becomes general secretary of the party in the mid-1950s.

Reviewed by Anne F. Thurston

By Alan Truscott

BACK in the history of the game there was a brief period when the lawmakers permitted players to make a bid of eight. There are certainly times when that would be advantageous, as witness the diagrammed deal, played during the Christmas season.

Santa Claus decided to give both South and West a hand that might plausibly make a forcing opening. Just as Duke Usdan as West was preparing to open two clubs, he heard that bid from Arthur Netter on his right. The West hand once became a candidate for the title of best hand whose holder hears a game-forcing opening by an opponent.

Somehow shocked, West bid four hearts, an error as the sequel proved. South, whose nickname is the Launcher, launched himself into six clubs. This indicated an expectation of making 12 tricks, and West well might have diagnosed a freakish hand on his right and tried six hearts. When he chose

Deng's transformation from Communist to pragmatist began with the disastrous Mao-inspired Great Leap Forward.

Evans does not shrink from criticism of his subject. Deng's pursuit of economic reform within tightly circumscribed political limits has been semicircular, and he has not hesitated to purge those who would undermine his delicate balance between economic liberalism and political control.

The hard edge of Deng was most apparent to China and the world on the night of June 3, 1989, when he ordered the army into Beijing to suppress the demonstrations that had been going on for more than six weeks.

The massacre would not have occurred under Zhou. During the Cultural Revolution, he spent endless hours restraining with religious students, slowly defusing their anger. Furthermore, he would not have used the army. Evans makes a persuasive case that Deng Xiaoping was not happy with how the military reclaimed Beijing.

Anne F. Thurston is the author of "Enemies of the People" and "A Chinese Odyssey: The Life and Times of a Chinese Dissident." This is excerpted from a review she wrote for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

most annoying for South, who could only long for the days when a bid for eight was legal: eight clubs doubled would cost just 500.

The lead was the diamond ace, making South slightly nervous, but the result was that North-South scored 1,540 when East-West could have made a grand slam in either major suit.

It would have been better tactics for West to overcall with two hearts at his first turn, in the certainty that there would be further developments. East could then raise to four hearts, showing good heart support and crowding the auction for South. Good heart support would suffice for West to bid seven hearts, since the spade king, if missing, would not doubt be with South. That result would have been

NORTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ Q 3
♦ A J 10 8 7 4 2
♣ 10 5 2

EAST
♠ K 10 8 6 4
♥ Q K 9 5 4
♦ 5 3
♣ J 8

SOUTH (D)
♠ —
♥ —
♦ K Q J 9 6
♣ A K Q 8 7 4 3

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:
South 2♣
West 4♥
East 4♠
South 6♣
Pass

West led the diamond ace.

مكازم التحصيل

LEISURE

Pushing Tourism The Canary Way

By Al Goodman

MADRID—Would you fly with your former spouse to Spain's Canary Islands and sleep for a week in the same hotel room if someone gave you the trip for free?

The Canary Islands tourist office is confident that it will find 70 Spanish former couples willing to try just that. Tourist officials this week came out in favor of reconciliation for divorced or separated couples, not to mention some free publicity for the Canaries.

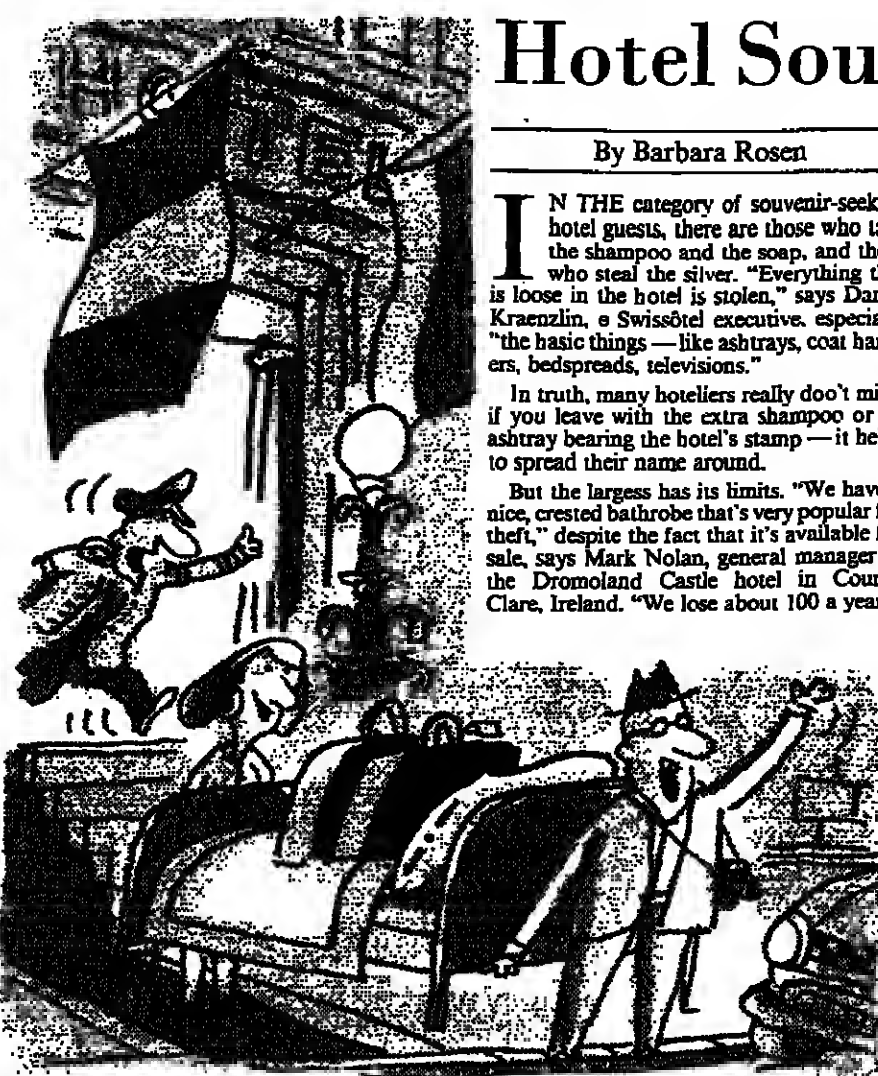
The 70 couples will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis for the vacation in late May, but there are several conditions. The participants must share a luxury hotel room with their ex for the entire week. The rooms are equipped with twin beds. Nervous types who cop out early will have to pay their own airfare back to Madrid, at least \$110.

The couples also have to certify that they did not trump up an argument just to get the free trip.

The "Reconciliation Flight" includes excursions around the seven-island archipelago and is open only to Spaniards. But a tourist official said there might be similar flights for British or German estranged couples later this year.

The reconciliation trip is a follow-up to the Canaries' successful "Love Flight" in 1991, in which 69 newlywed couples, decked out in wedding attire, got a free weeklong trip.

Al Goodman reports from Spain for CNN.



Hotel Souvenirs: Taking Them to the Limit

By Barbara Rosen

IN THE category of souvenir-seeking hotel guests, there are those who take the shampoo and the soap, and those who steal the silver. "Everything that is loose in the hotel is stolen," says Daniel Kraenzlin, a Swissotel executive, especially "the basic things—like ashtrays, coat hangers, bedspreads, televisions."

In truth, many hoteliers really don't mind if you leave with the extra shampoo or an ashtray bearing the hotel's stamp—it helps to spread their name around.

But the largess has its limits. "We have a nice, crested bathrobe that's very popular for theft," despite the fact that it's available for sale, says Mark Nolan, general manager of the Dromoland Castle hotel in County Clare, Ireland. "We lose about 100 a year."

Not us, says Jean-Jacques Regnault, manager of Le Relais Christine, a luxurious hotel on Paris's Left Bank whose robes bear no insignia. "They're of very, very good quality," Regnault says. "But they're all white. People never take them."

In fact, Dromoland is in the process of changing its china—it will still be Wedgwood bone, but with a simpler pattern and without a crest. "We've had a lot of theft of it," says Nolan. "I would start crying if I thought" how much.

In hotels like Dromoland, "where the room rates are rather high, people feel a certain assumed right, from time to time, to take things," says Nolan, adding that before they installed a closed-circuit TV, "prints went off the wall from time to time."

The ITT Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel lost 250 framed photographs from its corridor walls within two years of its January 1989 opening. Silver-plated coffee spoons, stamped with the Sheraton name, disappear on a regular basis.

"You can buy your own spoons back if you wish," notes Mark Ketels, the hotel's food-and-beverage manager. He said his mother-in-law once bought a Sheraton spoon at an Antwerp flea market.

Sometimes hoteliers never discover who walked away with even their larger goods—like the one-meter-tall, very heavy antique porcelain flower pot that disappeared from the lobby of Zurich's Baur au Lac hotel 15 years ago. Or the antique Persian rug that graced a room at Venice's Hotel Gritti Palace until a few years ago. Or Dromoland's mahogany and ivory chess board—which measured two and a half feet square and five inches high (on legs) and did not disassemble, and which vanished three years ago.

But sometimes the thieves are caught red-handed.

Back in 1985, when Regnault worked at the reception desk at the Crillon in Paris, a couple checked out with an entire silver breakfast service—coffee pot, milk jug, teapot, hot water pitcher, jam pot, cutlery. Fortunately, a hotel employee had called the couple a taxi and knew they were headed to another hotel. Regnault called the other hotel's manager, who went into their room while they were out and took back all the silver from their valise.

"They didn't say a word," Regnault recalls. "It was the best that I've seen—and the worst."

THEN there was the case of Dromoland's Galway crystal telephone, which a guest nabbed from the castle hall about a year ago—not realizing he was being watched on in-house television. The law prevented them from doing anything until the man had left their property, Nolan says—so three days later, authorities pulled him aside at Shannon Airport with a warrant to search his luggage. The phone was returned and no charges were filed.

"He had loads of money," Nolan says of the perp. "It was a problem more than anything else." Dromoland would even accept him back as a guest, Nolan says, though he would be watched "very closely."

A porter at the Gritti Palace once noticed guests packing an antique candelabra into their suitcase. On arriving at reception, they were told, "We have to call the police, as you have a candelabra in your suitcase," recalls the reception manager, Piero Penzo. "They gave us back the candelabra."

Further in the line of forgive and forget.

The Ritz in London is advertising for glove stretchers, wine jugs, all sorts of things dating from the hotel's opening in 1906. They want the items to put into a museum. "We're not asking how they left," says The Ritz's manager, Radha Arora, though he adds that he believes most disappeared by legitimate means. The hotel is even offering rewards.

A couple recently exchanged a guest book signed by Chaplin, Churchill and Gandhi—which had changed hands at auction—for a weekend at The Ritz. Another lady, having reached her 100th birthday, offered two Ritz Royal Doulton teacups and saucers, plus sugar bowl and milk jug, in exchange for her first tea at the hotel itself.

Back in 1938, this lady's gentleman friend was leaving his job as a Ritz waiter to join the German Army, and gave her the chalice as a gift. Arora recounts. "This was something he probably took," the manager says of the ex-waiter. "It doesn't really matter now."

Arora is still waiting to recover just one Ritz chamber pot, for which the hotel is offering a weekend for two, with dinner and a champagne breakfast. Could a chamber pot really have disappeared legitimately? "Maybe a guest took it in error," Arora muses.

Perhaps the last word in hospitality meets audacity belongs to a tale with few details. A guest in one Swiss hotel, the story goes, once called down for wrapping materials and a porter to help him put together a parcel—then proceeded to check out with his room TV in tow.

Barbara Rosen is a free-lance journalist living in Brussels.

THE ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

Salzburg
Oster Festspiele Salzburg 1994, tel: (862) 80-45-361, March 26 to April 4. Performances will include chamber music concerts, orchestral and choral works, and a variety of other musical forms.

Vienna
Albertina, tel: (1) 53-48-30, open daily, continuing to May 23. "Koschka: Das Frühwerk," 200 of Koschka's early drawings and watercolors created from 1888 to 1917.

Jewish Museum, tel: (1) 535-0431, closed Saturdays, To June 12: "Chagall: Bilder, Traume, Theater 1908-1920." Little-known works created in Chagall's native Russia, including murals for the Jewish State Chamber Theater in Moscow and paintings depicting the life and atmosphere in Chagall's village.

Kunsthaus Wien, tel: 712-0495, open daily, continuing to May 15: "Le Corbusier, the Architect, the Painter." As an architect, Le Corbusier (1893-1965) became world famous as the painter he remained.

Kunsthistorisches Museum, tel: 52-177, closed Mondays, continuing to May 28: "Isabella d'Este: La Prima Donna del Mondo." The Renaissance princess (1475-1539), a patron and connoisseur of art, employed such artists as Leonardo, Piero Perugino and Correggio, and acquired the works of others, such as Michelangelo. On show are paintings, carvings and bronze statuettes as well as ceramics, drawings, coins and medals.

Belgium
Brussels
Musée d'Art Modernes, tel: (2) 519-5930, closed Mondays, To June 12: "Hommage à Henry Everpoel 1872-1899." 200 paintings, pastels, drawings and watercolors representing street scenes, landscapes and portraits created in France and Algeria by the Belgian painter who died at age 27.

Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, tel: (2) 741-7211, closed Mondays, continuing to April 17: "Miniatures Mogholes de l'Inde." Miniatures from the New Delhi museum, depicting life under the Mogul emperors.

Edinburgh
Royal Museum of Scotland, tel: (31) 225-7534, open daily, To May 29: "Ars Medica: Art, Medicine and 19th Century." Prints, drawings and photographs telling the relationship between the history of medicine and visual arts. Included are works by Lucas van Leyden, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Munch and Bechtermann.

Glasgow
Scottish Opera, tel: (41) 248-4567.

Britten's "Peter Grimes." A new production directed by Joachim Herz, conducted by Richard Armstrong with Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Rita Curtis. April 12, 23, May 10 and 19, London.

Covent Garden, tel: (71) 240-1066: "Britten's 'Grimes.'" Directed by J. Trevis, conducted by Elgar Howarth with François Le Roux, Penelope Walton-Clarke and Richard Greger. April 14 (premiere), 18, 20, 22 and 23.

Hayward Gallery, tel: (71) 928-3002, open daily, To May 29: "Salvador Dali: The Early Years." 50 paintings, 50 drawings and photographs reflecting Dali's variety of styles, from neo-impressionism to Symbolism and Cubism. The subjects include scenes from cafe life in the '20s, portraits of his family and friends, and the port of Cadaques. The exhibition will travel to New York and Madrid.

National Gallery, tel: (71) 839-3528, open daily, continuing to April 10: "Claude: The Poetic Landscape." 25 paintings and 50 drawings by Claude Lorrain, the 17th-century French painter.

Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (71) 439-7438, open daily, To June 12: "Goya: Truth and Fantasy: The Cabinet Pictures, Sketches and Miniatures." 100 small-scale works, including oil paintings produced for the Spanish Royal Tapestry Factory, sketches for tapestries and many portraits and self-portraits.

South Bank, tel: (71) 633-0274, March 29 to April 12: The Motorola Festival of American Music includes, among other festivals, three orchestral performances of works by Bernstein, Glass and Vivaldi, conducted by Leonard Slatkin (April 6, 9 and 11).

Canada
Montreal
Musée d'Art Contemporain, tel: (514) 847-8226, closed Mondays, continuing to April 24: "Robert Doisneau: A Retrospective." A tribute to the French photographer, including 250 photographs taken between 1929 and 1982.

Musée des Beaux-Arts, tel: (514) 285-2000, closed Mondays, To May 15: "Flora Photographic: The Flower in Photography, From 1835 to the Present." 200 photographs focus on composition and technique as well as symbolism and allegory.

France
Paris
Bibliothèque Nationale, tel: 47-03-8110, open daily, To June 26: "Paysages, Paysages: L'Art et la Terre au Moyen Age au XIXe Siècle." The peasantry in art and literature from the Middle Ages. Features illuminated books, paintings by Bruegel, Dürer, Watteau, Oudry, Millet, Hugo, Bataille and Zola.

Grand Palais, tel: 44-13-17-30, closed Tuesdays, To June 13: "Le Soleil et l'Éclat du Nord: La France et la Suède au XIXe Siècle." Paintings, sculptures, art objects and architectural designs showing cultural exchanges between France and Sweden under the reign of King Gustavus.

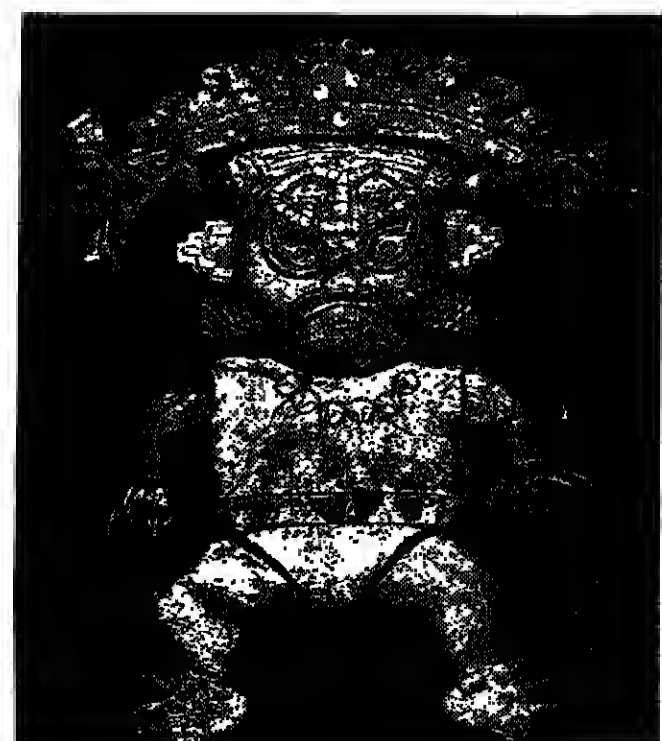


Figure of gilded copper and inlay, in Houston show.

Ill in his efforts to emulate the Court of Versailles.

Institut du Monde Arabe, tel: 40-51-38-39, closed Mondays, continuing to April 30: "Byrne: Memoire et Civilisation." Art objects covering the history of Syria from the 3d and 2d millenniums B.C. to the early 20th century.

Mona Bismarck Foundation, tel: 47-23-38-88, closed Sundays and Mondays, To April 23: "L'Art des Peuples Italiens, 3000 a 300 avant J.-C." Features terra-cotta and bronze objects, weapons, jewelry and statuettes that were part of the daily life of the peoples that lived in Italy before the Etruscans.

Musée-Galerie de la Saïta, tel: 45-58-60-17, closed Sundays, To May 14: "Lyonel Feininger 1871-1956: Œuvres sur Papier." 60 drawings and watercolors by the American-born artist who studied and painted in Germany and France, became a famous caricaturist for the Chicago Tribune, was influenced by Robert Delaunay and Cubism, and became a member of the Bauhaus workshops.

Musée du Louvre, tel: 40-20-50-50, closed Mondays, To April 18: "Egyptomania: L'Égypte dans l'Art Occidental 1750-1930." Egypt as a source of inspiration in European artistic creation.

Musée du Petit Palais, tel: 42-65-12-73, closed Tuesdays, To May 29: "L'Art des Sculpteurs Français: Chênes d'œuvre des Grandes Antilles coloniales." Cult objects, statues, weapons and bells made by the aborigines living on Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, at the time of Christopher Columbus.

Opéra Comique, tel: 42-96-12-20: Massenet's "Werther." Directed by Gilbert Gillo, conducted by Laurent Pélissier, with Alfredo Kraus/Luca Lombardo/Christian Poels, Martine Dupuy/Martine Olmeda/Beatrice Lira-Monzon. April 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 22.

Remmes
Musée des Beaux-Arts, tel: 99-28-55-85, closed Tuesdays, To April 25: "De Dürer à Friedrich: Quatre Siècles de Dessins Allemands." Drawings from the Wallraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne spanning the period from the Renaissance through the 19th century.

Germany
Berlin
Staatsoper Unter den Linden, tel: (30) 209-544-94, Richard Strauss's "Elektra." Directed by Dieter Dorn, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, with Uta Priew, Deborah Polaski, Alessandra Marc and Reiner Goldberg. March 27, 31, April 5 and 10.

Hamburg
Hamburgische Staatsoper, tel: (40) 35-63-454, Verdi's "Il Trovatore." Directed by Wolfgang Böcker, conducted by Samuel Friedmann, with Giorgio Zancanaro, Michele Corder and Maria Elisabetta Fiorillo. April 6, 12 and 15.

Munich
Bayerisches National Museum, tel: (89) 211-24-1, closed Mondays, To May 29: "Silber und Gold: Augsburg Goldschmiedekunst für die Habsburger." Silver and gold tableware created in Augsburg for the Habsburg courts in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Italy
Rivoli
Musée d'Art Contemporain, tel: (11) 969-7259, closed Mondays, continuing to April 30: "Keith Haring." 150 paintings, drawings, sculptures and objects by the American artist who died in 1990 at age 31. The exhibition will travel to Malmö, Sweden, Hamburg and Tel Aviv.

Venice
Chiesa San Bartolomeo, open daily, continuing to May 1: "Il Tintoretto: Rappresentazioni Sacre nella Chiesa Veneziana." 15 large religious pictures including "The Christening," "The Last Supper," and the churches of San Polo and San Salvatore.

Japan
Kobe
Kobe Hankyu Museum, tel: (78) 380-1231, closed Thursdays, To April 13: "Drawings by Mont." Four scrolls depicting scenes from the "Ugetsu Monogatari," the Noh drama "Sumidagawa," a novel by Tanizaki and a fairy tale by Andersen. Sketches are also on display.

Malibu
The J. Paul Getty Museum, tel: (310) 495-2003, closed Mondays, To May 29: "18th- and 19th-Century Drawings." A selection of drawings by Italian, French, Spanish and English artists, including Plazetta, Watteau, Goya and Rowlandson.

New York
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9750, closed Wednesdays, continuing to May 10: "Frank Lloyd Wright: Architect." A retrospective devoted to Wright's 70-year career. It includes 350 drawings, 30 scale models as well as photographs and architectural fragments.

NETHERLANDS
Amsterdam
Museum het Rembrandthuis, tel: (20) 624-9486, open daily, To May 29: "Color and Refinement: Drawings from the Unicorn Collection." 80 drawings by Dutch masters of the 17th and 18th centuries, including Bloemaert, Dussart, van der Velde, Pronk and Troost. The subjects include biblical scenes, landscapes, portraits, animals and still lifes.

PORTUGAL
Lisbon
Museu Nacional de Arqueologia, tel: 362-0000, continuing to Dec. 31: "Subterranean Lisbon." A display of archaeological with Phoenician, Roman, Visigothic, Mozarabic and medieval artifacts.

SPAIN
Palma de Mallorca
Teatre Principal, tel: (71) 72-55-48, Verdi's "La Traviata." Directed by Serafi Gussac, conducted by Fabiano Monica, with Kathleen Castello / Eteri Lamoris, Olatu Bjarnason / Ignacio Encinas, Carlos Alvarez / Guido Lebron. March 28, 30, April 2 and 4.

SWEDEN
Stockholm
Nationalmuseum, tel: (8) 666-4250, To April 24: "Imagination and

SWITZERLAND
Lausanne
Fondation ds l'Hermite, tel: (21) 320-50-01, closed Mondays, continuing to May 1: "La Nouvelle Vague: L'Estampe Japonaise de 1868 a 1939." From a private collection, 160 Japanese prints by artists of the Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods.

Martigny
Fondation Pierre Gianadda, tel: (26) 22-39-78, open daily, To June 12: "Dessins et Aquarelles des Collections Suisses et du Musée Rodin." Features a lesser-known aspect of the French sculptor's work with 66 drawings, sketches, prints and watercolors. Twelve monumental sculptures are simultaneously on show in the garden.

UNITED STATES
Houston
The Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7300, closed Mondays, To April 17: "Royal Carriage of Spain." Gold, silver and turquoise ornaments discovered in the burial chambers of Moche royalty, a pre-Inca civilization that dominated northern Peru from 100 to 900.

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NEW YORK PARIS RANGOON ROME SINGAPORE TOKYO

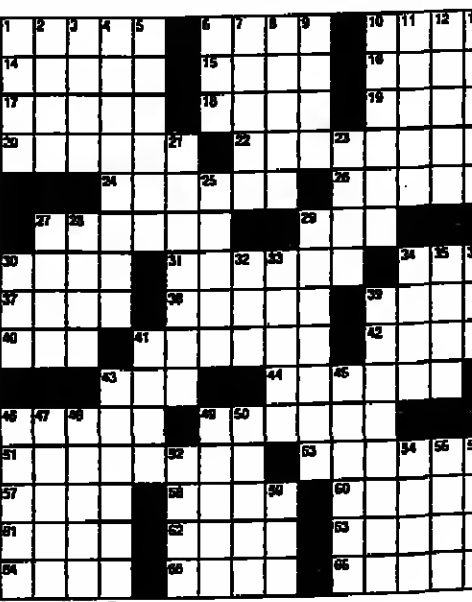
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Encircles
 - 6 Word in old wedding vows
 - 14 Door security
 - 14 "Him" (1963 hit by the Angels)
 - 15 Tot's first word
 - 16 Maintain
 - 17 Photographer Bullseye
 - 18 "Come—!"
 - 18 More than gratify
 - 20 Blood supply
 - 22 Fast planes from New York
 - 24 Rebutal to Junior
 - 26 Low-voiced ladies
 - 27 Sunday book
 - 29 Article in Le Monde
 - 30 Catty remark
 - 31 Primitive means of investigation
 - 34 Former title in Tripoli
 - 37 Howls
 - 38 Guitar sound

- DOWN**
- 1 Shocked response
 - 2 Pedestal figure
 - 3 Scruff
 - 4 Flurry
 - 41 Boxer's spot
 - 42 Mixed drink made with an egg
 - 43 Clear, with "of"
 - 44 Open
 - 45 Wise guys
 - 46 Polling subjects
 - 51 Dr. Johnny Fever and Venus Flytrap
 - 53 Blocked
 - 57 Uzbekistan's — Sea
 - 58 Paradise swiftness
 - 59 Scrimshaw medium
 - 61 "Who's" mother
 - 62 Vogue
 - 63 Onetime colonial power
 - 64 Memorial Day weekend event
 - 65 Appraised
 - 66 First name in cosmetics

- ACROSS**
- 3 Barrett of gossip
 - 4 Erving's cars
 - 8 Tar
 - 9 Prefix with meter
 - 7 Players pick it
 - 8 Uplift
 - 9 W.W. II Army magazines
 - 10 Big brother
 - 11 Stop, at sea
 - 12 Altercation
 - 13 Basketball stratagem
 - 21 Made fit
 - 24 Flatted
 - 25 Revealed, as an identity
 - 27 Govern
 - 28 Vaccinate
 - 29 In a state of mental collapse
 - 30 C.E.D.'s degree
 - 31 Neb. neighbor
 - 32 AE thumper
 - 34 MOMA work
 - 35 "Iliad," e.g.
 - 36 Un-huh
 - 38 Top gridiron players
 - 41 One method of sealing

- DOWN**
- 43 Instant —
 - 45 Cook slowly
 - 46 Hindu honcho
 - 47 Goodyear's home
 - 48 Thou
 - 49 8/15/45
 - 50 Tree cultivated for hedges
 - 52 "How — you!"
 - 54 Onetime means of defense
 - 55 Buffalo's county
 - 56 Measure of force
 - 58 — school



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Thursday's Prices
NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000
most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is
updated twice a year.

[illegible]

Thursday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

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Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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Males		Females		Total	
Age	Population	Age	Population	Age	Population
0-4	1,234	0-4	1,123	0-4	2,357
5-9	1,123	5-9	1,012	5-9	2,135
10-14	1,012	10-14	901	10-14	1,913
15-19	901	15-19	890	15-19	1,791
20-24	890	20-24	789	20-24	1,679
25-29	789	25-29	678	25-29	1,467
30-34	678	30-34	567	30-34	1,245
35-39	567	35-39	456	35-39	1,023
40-44	456	40-44	345	40-44	801
45-49	345	45-49	234	45-49	579
50-54	234	50-54	123	50-54	357
55-59	123	55-59	112	55-59	235
60-64	112	60-64	101	60-64	213
65-69	101	65-69	90	65-69	191
70-74	90	70-74	89	70-74	179
75-79	89	75-79	78	75-79	167
80-84	78	80-84	67	80-84	146
85-89	67	85-89	56	85-89	124
90-94	56	90-94	45	90-94	102
95-99	45	95-99	34	95-99	80
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MARKET DIARY

MEXICO: World Markets Shaken

Continued from Page 11

come Friday if it allows currency markets to reopen before picking a new presidential candidate.

That choice is expected to be made this weekend and to result in a show of solidarity for the ruling party.

But the danger was immediately recognized by Mr. Clinton, who

U.S. Stocks

disclosed that he called Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen "to see what we could do to help" if trading in the Mexican currency got out of hand. That was obviated by the close of Mexico's markets, but Mr. Clinton's words were not the last ones from the U.S. government on the subject.

The Federal Reserve and Mexico's central bank have close ties that predate even the 1982 collapse of Mexico's currency. Recently they have been strengthened by new and sophisticated currency swap agreements to help both currencies through storms. They have both become more vulnerable due to the commercial ties of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which came into effect Jan. 1.

"Mexico has a pile of reserves," said Moises Naim, a Latin American specialist at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, referring to the central bank's \$28 billion of foreign money. "If they are smart, and I think they will, they will use them when the markets open to defend the peso in the short term."

This was echoed on Wall Street

by Chip Brown of Morgan Stanley, who said that the peso was a symbol of the continuity and strength of the Mexican government and that its stability would offer investors reassurance that the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, would remain in control. "I don't see any immediate outflow of money," he added.

Steep Drop on Wall Street

Blue chips sensitive to economic cycles, including large industrial and financial shares, posted some of the larger price drops on Thursday, the Associated Press reported from New York.

Decliners swamped advances by more than 4 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange and trading volume swelled to 303.75 million shares from 281.44 million on Wednesday.

Caterpillar tumbled 3% to 116 1/2 and International Paper fell 1/2 to 69 1/2, while such financial shares as J.P. Morgan dropped 1/4 to 64 1/4. "The bond market is weighing heavily on the equity market right now," said Kent Lillick, an analyst at Kemper Securities. "But there are a lot of more timely items that, in the singular, probably wouldn't cause the market to fade like this but when taken together are a big overhang."

In Nasdaq trading, Media Vision led in volume, plunging 10 1/2 to close at 11, after the company peripherals company said it would have a substantial first-quarter loss and that price cuts would reduce revenues. Lehman Brothers reportedly downgraded the stock.

Via Associated Press March 24

The Dow

Daily Change of the Dow Jones Industrial Average

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Dow Jones Averages

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EUROPEAN FUTURES

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March 24, 1994

of Hong Kong	\$	56.99	m Fathun Fund	\$	1350.24
of Japan	\$	18.15	m Firebird Overseas Ltd	\$	155.64
of Philippines	\$	61.45	m First Eagle Fund	\$	62055.56

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BELIZE (PIT PAY PHONES)	1
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+ CYPRUS	000-900-01
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+ DENMARK	0001-0877
+ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1-800-751-2077
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+ EL SALVADOR	171
+ FINLAND	0900-1-0284
+ FRANCE	19-0087
+ GERMANY	020-9079
+ GREECE	008-001-41
+ GUATEMALA	185
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+ HUNGARY	00+800-91-877
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MEXICO	95-800-877-8000
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+ NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	000-800-745111
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+ NICARAGUA (MANAGUA)	161
+ NORWAY	020-12-877
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+ PERU	006-12-900
+ POLAND	0000-490-015
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+ U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	1-800-877-8000
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+ UTAH/CAN CITY	172-1877
VENEZUELA-ENGLISH	800-1111-0
VENEZUELA-SPANISH	800-111-1

Thursday's Closing

Thursday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*

(Continued)

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 Membership No.
 TG-253741
 MR. A. SAMPLE

*Thai's frequent flyer program
 (First, Business and Economy Class)*

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ROYAL ORCHID
Plus

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3. The third part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

4. The fourth part of the document is a table with two columns. The first column is labeled "Name" and the second column is labeled "Address". The names are listed in the first column, and the addresses are listed in the second column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

5. The fifth part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

6. The sixth part of the document is a table with two columns. The first column is labeled "Name" and the second column is labeled "Address". The names are listed in the first column, and the addresses are listed in the second column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

7. The seventh part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

8. The eighth part of the document is a table with two columns. The first column is labeled "Name" and the second column is labeled "Address". The names are listed in the first column, and the addresses are listed in the second column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

9. The ninth part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding addresses. The names are listed in the left column, and the addresses are listed in the right column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

10. The tenth part of the document is a table with two columns. The first column is labeled "Name" and the second column is labeled "Address". The names are listed in the first column, and the addresses are listed in the second column. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

MMAG/714 5183

Thai

Thai

Membership No.

TG-253741

MR. A. SAMPLE

ROYAL ORCHID

Plus

*Thai's frequent flyer programme is all class.
(First, Business and Economy.)*

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Property
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MINISTRY OF

COUNCIL FOR
MAY

1. The first step is to identify the problem.
 2. The second step is to define the problem.
 3. The third step is to analyze the problem.
 4. The fourth step is to develop a solution.
 5. The fifth step is to implement the solution.
 6. The sixth step is to evaluate the solution.
 7. The seventh step is to monitor the solution.
 8. The eighth step is to maintain the solution.
 9. The ninth step is to improve the solution.
 10. The tenth step is to document the solution.

Property Brings Li's Companies Large Profits

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG—The two main companies controlled by Li Ka-shing reported large rises in 1993 profit on Thursday, with results boosted by the soaring Hong Kong real estate market.

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd. said its profit rose 56 percent, to 9.78 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1 billion) on sales that were up 4 percent, to 10.69 billion dollars.

At Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., which is 40.3 percent-owned by Cheung Kong, profit more than doubled, to 6.30 billion dollars, from 3.05 billion. Sales were up 18 percent, to 24.75 billion dollars.

Analysts said Cheung Kong would have a good year in 1994, even if the Hong Kong real estate boom cools and the stock market's slump persists. "Cheung Kong is the strongest among property developers," said Michael Green, director at S. G. Warburg Securities.

The company could earn as much as 12.5 billion dollars this year even if real estate market prices stop rising, he said. Most of its income will come from three luxury residential projects in Hong Kong: Kingswood Villas, South Horizons and Laguna City.

Mr. Li said those projects would be completed by 1997.

Last year, Cheung Kong enlarged its real estate holdings by purchasing or jointly developing projects with large land areas. These would build a good foundation for the business after 1997, Mr. Li said.

Cheung Kong also signed several contracts and letters of intent with China companies in infrastructure, power, property and hotel businesses, he said.

Mr. Li said he approved of recent Chinese measures to control prices. "The financial control measures which have been implemented in mainland China are having a positive effect in guiding the overall economy along the path of sustainable growth," said Mr. Li. "This will be beneficial for Hong Kong's economy which is becoming increasingly linked together with China."

At Hutchison, earnings were boosted by a recovery at Husky Oil Ltd., a 49 percent-owned energy subsidiary in Canada. It also got a boost from a 1.66 billion profit on the sale of a 31.8 percent stake in STAR TV to News Corp. of Australia, Rupert Murdoch's flagship.

These gains were partly offset by a 1.41 billion dollar loss provision for the closing of the Rabbit telephone system in Britain. Rabbit was a kind of mobile phone that could make but not receive calls when used within 200 meters (660 feet) of transmitters placed along busy streets and in public places.

Mr. Li, at 65 the richest person in Hong Kong, founded Cheung Kong or "Long River," at age 22 with \$900. He acquired 22 percent of Hutchison in 1979, making him the first Chinese to take over a British-owned conglomerate in the colony. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Bond Pricing Gets Sharp Companies Forced to Sweeten Deals

By Kevin Murphy

International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG—The fast days are over in the pricing of new Asian securities.

Rising interest rates, falling stock prices, a deal backlog and a surfeit of existing paper are forcing companies raising funds to either sweeten their deals or work a lot harder.

Underwriters who winced at the flops of rivals' deals—such as Taiwan's attempt to privatize a chunk of state-owned China Steel Corp. and Bangkok Bank's \$400 million Euroconvertible bond—have put dozens of new equity and equity-linked bond offerings on hold across Asia.

"Anyone trying to bring out a new issue in a falling market at a high multiple is really going to earn their fees," said one Singapore fund manager, who has sold all his holdings of Indian equities and equity-linked bonds traded in the Euromarkets, one of 1993's most active issuing areas.

"We are bullish on the Asian markets overall, India especially, but we're not doing anything until the inflation and interest rate picture is clarified in the United States," said the fund manager, echoing an Asia-wide sentiment.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board's decision to fight inflation by pushing interest rates up in early February marked the end of a staggering bull run in most Asian equity markets.

Stocks in Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have fallen by as much as 23 percent since the beginning of the year. Fears of further rate increases have kept investors nervously on the sidelines, forcing many issuers to rethink their deals.

On Thursday, an Indonesian entrepreneur, Anthony Salim, changed the terms of his \$600 million public offering of shares in Indofood, the world's largest maker of noodles.

Aiming to sidestep Indonesian regulations that limit prices of new domestic equity offerings to 15 times the company's earnings, the Salim group plans to offer \$50 million of Indofood shares to domestic investors and \$550 million of what it is calling mandatory exchangeable bonds to international investors.

In a package accepted by Indonesian regulators, the bonds offered to the Euromarkets must be converted into Indofood shares to be listed in Jakarta eight months after the smaller domestic issue is approved.

The conversion price had valued the issue at a P/E multiple of 26, allowing the Salim group to raise much more money than if it had tapped the Jakarta market alone.

Late Wednesday, that multiple was lowered to 23.

Mr. Salim has "had the opportunity to hear from

ASIAN MONEY MARKETS

investors" and is prepared to "put a little more on the table," a banker at Union Bank of Switzerland, the issue's global organizer, said. "In the current environment, pricing is very important."

Fund managers are watching closely to see whether investment houses go back on pledges made in the competition to secure underwriting business. The final pricing of an international offering of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., an Indian state-owned company with a monopoly on international telephone traffic, is of particular interest.

The company had hoped to raise \$1 billion from the sale of 20 percent of its equity to foreign investors, in a deal in which the market expected shares to be sold at nearly 100 times current earnings.

But a slowdown in the chaotic Indian stock market and steep declines in prices of other Asian telecommunications stocks make that an ambitious target.

"Even before the interest-rate rise there were signs of oversaturation in these markets," said Harry Cheung, managing director of Bank Julius Baer Investment Advisory (Hong Kong) Ltd. "Some of the issues were priced a little too greedily."

"There are many attractive issues already trading below par, some very good names trading in the 90s," Mr. Cheung said, referring to the standard of bond pricing on which the face value of the issue equals 100. "An new issues will have to be at least as attractive."

Beijing Sets Offering of State Firms

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING—Four Beijing state enterprises hope to raise more than 1.0 billion yuan (\$115 million) in the first public issue of shares in the Chinese capital, the China Daily reported Thursday.

Beijing Department Store Group Co., Beiren Printing Machinery Co., Beijing Light Bus Co. and Beijing Town County Trade Center Co. will issue 175 million shares over three days starting Sunday, said Li Junhua, the director of the municipal commission for economic restructuring.

Although 204 Beijing companies have issued shares internally, this is the first time state enterprises in the capital have openly offered shares. The companies will eventually be listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, the paper said.

Prospective buyers are required to deposit funds in Beijing banks for half-year terms, and the accounts will be entered into a lottery to decide who is eligible to buy the shares, the report said.

Mr. Li said the sale will be an important step in the process of reforming state enterprises. He expressed confidence that the bank savings requirement would ensure success.

Beiren, the biggest maker of printing machinery in China, floated 100 million shares on the Hong Kong stock exchange in July. The company earned 133.6 million yuan last year, while Beijing Light Bus registered profit of 22.32 million yuan, the report said.

The Beijing Department Store's sales volume hit 1.1 billion yuan in 1993, it said.

Investor's Asia	
Hong Kong	Shanghai
Beijing	Shenzhen
Guangzhou	Chengdu
Chongqing	Xi'an
Yantai	Qingdao
Wenzhou	Ningbo
Hangzhou	Shaoxing
Shaoxing	Wuxi
Wuxi	Zhuzhou
Zhuzhou	Changsha
Changsha	Wuhan
Wuhan	Chongqing
Chongqing	Guangzhou
Guangzhou	Shenzhen
Shenzhen	Hong Kong

Very briefly:

Japan's External Trade Organization published a survey on the European operation of Japanese companies in the manufacturing sector that showed that 51.2 percent ran a deficit in 1992, up from 47.1 percent in 1991, and that 83 percent said results had deteriorated further in 1993.

Eastman Kodak Co., Chase Manhattan Corp., Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Bell Atlantic Corp. applied for delisting from the Tokyo Stock Exchange, which continues to undergo a prolonged slump.

Westpac Banking Corp. and the insurer Australian Mutual Provident Society said they were relaxing the terms of their 1991 alliance. AMP will be released from the requirement to keep a major stake in the bank.

Japan's average land price fell for the third consecutive year in 1993 and the most expensive commercial land in Tokyo dropped 32.5 percent.

Bank of China said it would open branches in Milan and San Francisco and a representative office in Malaysia this year. AFP, Bloomberg, AP

Ted Turner Sees Satellite-Broadcasting Shakeout

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG—The satellite television industry faces overcrowding, and many networks could go broke, Ted Turner, the founder of Cable News Network, said Thursday.

Digital-compression technology soon to be introduced would compound the problem, allowing much more traffic on each satellite, which would mean greater competition and slimmer profits, Mr. Turner said at a conference on the satellite and cable-television industry.

Mr. Turner said there were "way more networks planned than are already up there," more than he believed the market could support, and he predicted there would be "a lot of money lost in the game before it's over."

He said that in "any business where the cost of entry is very low, then usually the profit margins are very low too."

Mr. Turner, owner of Turner Broadcasting Systems Inc., spoke of the ease with which companies could enter the satellite transmitting business.

"All you have to do," he said, "is purchase a transponder and have, or be able to acquire, programming at a reasonable enough cost so you don't go broke."

The STAR TV network, which broadcasts in Asia and is 63.6 percent-owned by Rupert Murdoch's

News Corp., said it would have a loss of about \$20 million in 1994. But STAR, which has access to News Corp.'s film library and other programming, is expected to start covering its costs next year.

Turner Broadcasting System has its own programming library for its TNT and Cartoon Network, which it will launch in Asia this year.

Mr. Turner said the new network would incur losses but that having

its own library would lessen the financial risk.

Turner said that CNN, which has been available across Asia since 1982, made money in the region, as it did in other parts of the world. Although TNT and Cartoon Network will lose money "for quite a while," he said, the amount was "not going to be significant, because we already own the programming."

(Reuters, AFP)

Japan Protests U.S. Air Route Delay

The Associated Press

TOKYO—Japan on Thursday protested the U.S. government's postponement of approval for flights by Japan Air Lines Co. between the northern Japanese city of Sendai and Honolulu.

In a message delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said the U.S. action violated a 1984 aviation agreement between the two countries and called for approval of the route, a ministry official said.

Officials from Japan's Transport Ministry speculated that the U.S. delay may be connected to its request for more flights for U.S. airlines, including a Detroit-to-Sydney route via Osaka and a New York-to-Sydney route via Tokyo.

Japan agreed on Thursday to try to increase the domestic market share of U.S.-made computer chips, but said U.S. manufacturers must make more efforts to sell their products, Knight-Ridder reported from Waikoloa, Hawaii, quoting the Kyodo news service.

Japan's average land price fell for the third consecutive year in 1993 and the most expensive commercial land in Tokyo dropped 32.5 percent.

Bank of China said it would open branches in Milan and San Francisco and a representative office in Malaysia this year. AFP, Bloomberg, AP

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION MINISTRY OF HYDRAULIC AND ELECTRIC RESOURCES

INVITATION TO BID

The Lebanese Government, represented by the Ministry of Hydraulic and Electric Resources and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), is launching an international tender for the supply and the construction of the electrical line of Dbayeh pumping station from the power generation plant of Zouk.

This supply will comprise two 66 KV buried electric power lines (3 x 300 mm², 15 MVA each) on an approximate length of 4,100 m and all relative works including connection equipments.

Suppliers will have to deliver a fully fitted and ready for use supply within a maximum duration of 39 weeks.

Financing is available from the Italian Government for Italian contractors. Non-Italian contractors are also invited to participate to the tender on the condition that their offer be linked to a financing proposal.

Tender Documents will be available at the CDR office at the cost of US\$ 500 (Five Hundred US Dollars) as from Thursday, 24 March 1994 at the following address:

Council for Development & Reconstruction
Tallet El-Seray - PO Box 116-5351
Beirut - Lebanon

Deadline for returning the duly completed document with all requested justifications is 12:00 noon (Beirut Local Time) on Thursday, 26 May 1994.

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Lebanese Government, represented by the Ministry of Transportation and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), is launching an international tender for the supply of buses.

The tender will comprise 140, 7.5 to 9 meter long buses, with a capacity of 40 passengers, of which 20 seated, for the urban public transport (mainly Beirut).

Suppliers will have to deliver the 140 buses fully fitted for use in several equivalent lots spread on a maximum duration of 18 months.

Financing is available from the Italian Government for Italian suppliers. Non-Italian suppliers are also invited to participate to the tender on the condition that their offer be linked to a financing proposal.

Tender Documents will be available at the CDR office at the cost of US\$ 2,000 (Two Thousand US Dollars) as from Thursday, 24 March 1994 at the following address:

Council for Development & Reconstruction
Tallet El-Seray - PO Box 116-5351
Beirut - Lebanon

Deadline for returning the duly completed document with all requested justifications is 12:00 noon (Beirut Local Time) on Thursday, 26 May 1994.



Highlights 1993

Jardine Matheson

Another Record Year

- Profit after taxation and outside interests + 23%
- Earnings per share + 21%
- Dividends per share + 18%
- Net asset value per share + 34%
- Outstanding performance by Jardine Fleming
- New investments lay foundation for future expansion
- Hong Kong property values boost Shareholders' funds

"Over the years, Jardine Matheson, together with its affiliates, has become a multinational business employing more than 200,000 people in over 30 countries around the world. Its particular strength is in the Asia-Pacific Region, which remains the world's prime growth area, but the Group also has extensive investments elsewhere, which hold promise for the future. While it is too early to forecast how earnings will develop in 1994, the Group's financial strength and diversity of business allow it to look forward with confidence."

Henry Keswick, Chairman
23rd March 1994

1993 RESULTS		
	Year ended 31st December	
	1993	1992
	US\$m	US\$m
Turnover	8,424.5	7,899.5
Operating profit	382.0	335.9
Share of profits less losses of associates	467.9	382.1
Net interest expense	(5.6)	(10.6)
Profit before taxation	824.3	687.4
Taxation		
— Company and subsidiary undertakings	(66.4)	(52.8)
— associates	(93.6)	(77.8)
Profit after taxation	664.3	556.8
Outside interests	(275.5)	(240.0)
Profit after taxation and outside interests	388.8	316.8
Extraordinary items	35.2	30.7
Profit attributable to Shareholders	424.0	347.5
Dividends	(128.3)	(110.0)
Retained profit for the year	295.7	237.5
Shareholders' funds	2,720.4	2,007.3
	US\$	US\$
Earnings per share		
— basic	67.21	56.97
— fully-diluted	66.31	54.59
Dividends per share	22.00	18.70

Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited
Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability

The final dividend of US\$15.20 per share will be payable on 10th June 1994, subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 2nd June 1994, to Shareholders on the register of members at the close of business on 15th April 1994 and will be available in cash with a scrip alternative. The share registers will be closed from 18th to 22nd April 1994 inclusive. The dividend will be available in United States Dollars, Hong Kong Dollars or Sterling. Shareholders on the International branch register will receive United States Dollars while Shareholders on the Hong Kong branch register will receive Hong Kong Dollars, unless they elect for one of the alternative currencies by notifying the Company's registrars or transfer agents by 20th May 1994. Shareholders whose shares are held through the Central Depository System in Singapore ("CDP") will receive Hong Kong Dollars, unless they elect through CDP to receive United States Dollars.

SPORTS



The Kings' Wayne Gretzky celebrating the 802nd goal of his 15-year career, which broke the NHL record held by Gordie Howe.

Gretzky's Record of Creativity

By Helene Elliott
Los Angeles Times Service

INGLEWOOD, California — He was too scrappy to survive in the National Hockey League, scouts and general managers said with knowing nods. Didn't have much of a shot. Couldn't score on a breakaway if the Stanley Cup depended on it. They laughed over the 46-goal season he recorded as a teen-ager in the World Hockey Association. In the NHL, where men are men and elbows to the jaw are dispensed without mercy, he would be just another failed phenom.

Yeah, this Wayne Gretzky kid had no future. Neither did another scrappy, blond small-town boy who joined the pro basketball ranks that same year, 1979. He couldn't jump, couldn't shoot and he was destined to be a casualty in the nightly wars under the basket. Larry Bird had no chance, either.

Gretzky still doesn't have what players call a heavy shot, one that stings goaltenders' hands. He stopped growing at a modest 6 feet (1.8 meters), never attaining the bulk of a Phil Esposito. And he has yet to master the art of scoring on breakaways. If he had developed that knack, he joked last week, "I probably would be well beyond the 802."

Despite lacking those supposedly vital assets, Gretzky has become the NHL's career goal-scoring leader.

With a neat but unspectacular wrist shot from the near edge of the left faceoff circle, Gretzky on Wednesday scored his 802nd goal and broke Gordie Howe's NHL record. The Great One became the greatest one, grabbing the only significant NHL scoring record he didn't have after he broke Howe's NHL point record in 1989 by scoring the second goal in the Los Angeles Kings' 6-3 loss to the Vancouver Canucks.

To appreciate his feat, think of this: To score

800 goals, a player would have to average 40 goals per season for 20 seasons. Or 20 goals for 40 seasons. Gretzky, whose record-setting goal was his 37th this season, has averaged 55 goals over 14 NHL seasons. He broke Howe's record in his 1,117th game; Howe needed 1,767 to score his 801.

For his career, Gretzky has averaged 2.19 points per game; Howe averaged 1.05 per game and finished with 1,850 NHL points. If he had averaged as many points per game as Gretzky, he would have collected 3,940 points. Among the NHL's top 100 point leaders, only Mario Lemieux comes close to Gretzky's wizardry. Lemieux has averaged 2.03 points per game, but his career is being threatened by back problems. No other player in the top 100 has averaged as many as 1.5 points per game.

The sellout crowd of 16,005, which moments earlier saluted Oscar winner Tom Hanks with a standing ovation at his Forum seat, gave Gretzky an even louder cheer. This crowd knows class.

"Six years ago when I came to L.A., they said California wasn't a great hockey area," Gretzky said during the ceremony that commemorated his goal. "Mr. (Bruce) McNall brought me down here six years ago, and we showed North America that they were wrong."

"To the fans of L.A., I've loved playing here for six years and I'd love to play another six years."

Gretzky doesn't have a mean streak like Howe, who probably would have checked his grandmother into the cheap seats if she stood between him and the net. He didn't revolutionize the concept of how to play a position, as Bobby Orr did for defensemen. He didn't have the slap shot that Bobby Hull made famous. He's not tall enough to have the regal air of Jean Beliveau. He didn't invent the goalie mask or the curved stick.

His game isn't rink-length rushes, like Paul Coffey, or the pure speed up the wing of Mike Gartner. It isn't breakaways or shots from the point or one-handed shots with two defenders on his back, as Lemieux can do with the reach afforded by his 6-4 frame.

What he did was bring to hockey a vision and creativity never seen before.

Gretzky's game is built on quickness, not flat-out speed. It's the ability to know where the puck is going to be, to dart there, startle a defender and force a turnover with a flick of his stick.

His game is seeing everything, analyzing it and acting a split-second too quickly for opponents to react. By the time they realize he has set up behind the net, he has already released a pass to a teammate who was left open for a shot. That's why that bit of ice behind the opposition's net has become his favorite spot. His command post, because from there he can see everyone coming at him and recognize where his best play will be.

His record-breaking goal was only a wrist shot, like hundreds he has scored, but it was the completion of a clever passing sequence with Luc Robitaille and Marty McSorley. Robitaille left a drop pass for Gretzky, who passed to McSorley on the right side. McSorley passed back to Gretzky, who quickly put the puck in the net.

Nothing flashy, just subtle, smart and well executed.

Is he greater than Howe? Purists will argue Howe was superior because he set his records against tougher competition, in the days of the six-team NHL and before overexpansion diluted talent. But he didn't have to endure an 84-game schedule or the draining coast-to-coast travel Gretzky faces. There's no real answer, merely the fun of arguing and the joy of appreciating the unique gifts each has brought to the game.

Jazz Attack Shaq, But the Magic Use Their Other Tricks

The Associated Press

The Utah Jazz couldn't stop their slide by surrounding Shaquille O'Neal.

The Jazz blanketed O'Neal, holding him to 11 shots, but the strategy made room for Orlando's outside shooters, and the Magic won, 98-93, on Wednesday night.

"Every time I touched the ball, guys dropped and I was just trying

NBA HIGHLIGHTS

to hit the open man," said O'Neal, who made seven of his 11 shots and scored 19 points, 10 under his average.

O'Neal's frustration surfaced late in the game when he was whistled for a technical foul with 2:02 left for elbowing Tyrone Corbin. Utah made two of the three resulting free throws, closing to 89-87.

Of his elbow to Corbin, O'Neal said, "I just have to let people know they can't grab me all night. If somebody's not going to do something about it, I guess I have to."

Things went better for O'Neal on Thursday, however, when PepsiCo Inc., with which he has an exclusive marketing agreement, agreed to let him play on the U.S. team in the world championships in Toronto this summer. He had quit the team

in October because one of its prime sponsors is McDonald's, a restaurant chain that sells rival Coca-Cola.

The U.S. team will be the second manned by NBA players. The first, which included Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley, won the 1992 Olympic gold medal.

In the Magic-Jazz game, Antwan Davis scored 21 points, Dennis Scott 18 and Scott Skiles 11, nine of them in the fourth quarter, for Orlando. Skiles had a 3-pointer with 2:44 left and hit a 17-footer with 11 seconds remaining, giving the Magic a 94-91 advantage.

John Stockton's 3-point attempt for a tie bounced off the rim, and Orlando's Jeff Turner was fouled on the rebound. Turner converted both free throws to make it 96-91 with 4.6 seconds remaining.

Karl Malone had 27 points and 17 rebounds and Stockton 22 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, who lost for the sixth time in seven games after winning 10 straight.

Lakers 112, Mavericks 109: In Dallas, the Lakers outscored the home team, 13-2, in the final minutes.

The Mavericks, who lost their 12th straight, trailed, 65-53, with 8:24 left in the third quarter, before charging back behind Doug Smith, who scored a career-high 34 points, to lead, 107-99, with 2:29 left.

But Nick Van Exel, who scored 28 points, led the Lakers down the stretch, scoring five points in the game-winning run before passing for their final three baskets.

Hawks 100, Hornets 92: In Atlanta, the Hawks became the first Eastern Conference team to clinch a playoff berth as Kevin Willis had 31 points and 16 rebounds against Charlotte.

Alonzo Mourning led the Hornets with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Stacey Augmon finished with 20 points and Mookie Blaylock 18 points, 14 assists and five steals for Atlanta, which improved to an NBA-best 29-4 at home and took a half-game lead over the New York Knicks for first place in the East.

Bulls 99, 76ers 87: In Philadelphia, Scottie Pippen scored 31 points on 14-for-19 shooting as Chicago handed Philadelphia its eighth straight home loss.

Pippen scored 10 points during an 18-1 run that gave the Bulls a 39-44 halftime lead, and they led by as many as 17 in the second half. The Sixers lost for the 20th time in 21 games overall.

Pacers 78, Cavaliers 77: In Indianapolis, Indiana turned the tables on Cleveland, in the last second of the game.

Dale Davis put back an offensive rebound with 0.8 seconds remaining, giving the Pacers the victory one night after the Cavaliers embarrassed them, 93-61.

Cleveland scored just 27 points in the first half, but Mark Price's 16-footer gave the Cavs a 77-70 lead with 10 seconds left.

The Pacers, with no timeouts, rushed the ball downcourt on their final possession, and Reggie Miller missed a 15-footer from the baseline. But Davis was open for the rebound and made the layup.

Vanderbilt, Villanova Advance

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Vanderbilt is two victories away from its second National Invitation Tournament championship in five years.

Vandy (19-11) has pulled itself up from a lull after a loss to Auburn in the first round of the Southeast-

NIT ROUNDUP

ern Conference tournament. Wednesday night, the Commodores earned a ticket to the NIT semifinals with an 89-74 victory over Clemson (18-16).

"We're playing a lot looser, with a lot more confidence and more as a team," guard Frank Seckar said. Seckar enjoyed a perfect night from the floor, hitting all five of his shots, including four from 3-point range, to finish with 15 points.

Seckar's backcourt teammate, Billy McCaffrey, scored 27 points. "I've never been in the NIT and I want to win it," said McCaffrey, a senior who transferred to Vanderbilt from Duke three years ago.

Vanderbilt defeated Saint Louis, 74-72, in the 1990 title game.

Villanova 76, Xavier (Ohio) 74: In Villanova, Pennsylvania, freshman Jason Lawson had 17 points, a season-high 15 rebounds and six blocked shots for winners.

Eric Eberz hit a jump shot with 25 seconds left and Kerry Kittles made two free throws with 5 seconds remaining to seal the win for the Wildcats (18-12).

Johnson's Back Where He Belongs

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service

This is where Earvin Johnson belongs. In the gym, an NBA gym. One of the greatest basketball minds who ever lived doesn't belong on some traveling caravan, being haunted by an AIDS-bystander foreign government. Finally, after a lot of foolishness from men such as Jerry Colangelo and Karl Malone, somebody has had the wisdom and decency to embrace Magic. Lucky him. The only thing better than having him for an entire career would be having him for a second career.

If you're waiting here for the voice of a skeptic, somebody to sound a note of caution because he's never coached before, because transcendent players rarely make great coaches, because of what the stress might do to his health, hah, hah, hah, you'd better turn the page.

Is it possible he can be a flop as a coach? Sure. People who insist they know for sure so-and-so is destined to be a great coach or destined to be a bad coach aren't to be believed. We don't know. We never know. About anybody. We didn't know about Joe Gibbs or Pat Riley or Chuck Daly or Richie Petitbon. And we don't know about Magic. But if we're taking sides here, will he or won't he, I'm betting we'll soon look back on this day and ask, "Why in the world did people doubt he'd be a great coach?"

First, even if Magic turns out to be the worst coach in the league, the Lakers will have lost nothing. They're terrible now, 20½ games behind first-place Seattle, 5½ games behind in the race for the final playoff spot. Everybody you remember from the '80s is gone except James Worthy. The Forum is half-empty most nights. So this end-of-season experiment isn't going to cost the club a thing, even in the worst-possible scenario, in which they'd lose a bunch of games and probably get a higher draft pick.

The potential problems are real, not imagined. He has to make the transition from preparing himself for a game, to preparing an entire team. The players he's coaching aren't going to be as good as he is now, two years into retirement. Between games, he'll have to teach them things he's done naturally for 20 years. He'll have to pick up the nuances of calling timeouts and substituting, without benefit of apprenticeship. Even John Lucas coached at the minor league level. Riley had a few minutes as an assistant before becoming head coach.

The one scary most people seem to be buying into is that great players cannot become great coaches. Lennox Wilkens, who's about to pass Red Auerbach for all-time victories, is a Hall of Famer. Dan Issel was one of the best big men in the history of the ABA. Jerry Sloan, Rudy T., Paul Westphal, Kevin Loughery, Lucas and Nelson aren't all-timers, but all were big-time players on championship-caliber teams. So there is precedent.

Vantage Point



Magic was obviously a once-in-a-lifetime player, but it's not like he relied solely on physical gifts. He could never run or jump very well, and he taught himself to be a great shooter. The Doc and Michael were The Natural; Magic's game was as much mental as it was physical. Through work and thought he took the doable to an absurdly high level. With Magic, it was all about looking at another videotape, talking to some obscure scout who might have seen an opposing player, squeezing a piece of information out of a reporter or ex-player that might help him on the road one night in Sacramento. The level of his preparation and fanaticism through 12 seasons was almost incomprehensible.

Will he be able to make players do what has been communicated? Can he inspire people to leave their egos at the door and play to their potential, or above it, night after night? Can he make a difference in a player's league, a league where coaches, at best, enhance? That's the challenge.

I suspect, though, given that HIV-positive people are participating fully in every walk of life, Coach Magic Johnson will bring his personality to the bench and be one ruthless, uncompromising coach. You know that trillion-dollar smile we saw for 12 years? Forget it, it's gone.

This is more than a hunch. A couple of years ago during the NBA finals, Magic got to talking about why he didn't think he could be a coach. "Because when I ask for defense, I want defense," he said. "I wouldn't be one of the boys, I don't want to see you making a face, I want you in that guy's jersey!" Magic, at the time, knew he couldn't coach A.C. Green, Byron Scott, Sam Perkins, all those former teammates. He figured it was just too difficult to make the transition from one of the boys to authoritarian overnight.

Probably, he was right. But enough time has passed. Green, Scott and Perkins are gone. The kids who now wear Lakers uniforms think of him as the preeminent basketball god, which he is. This will be one of the few times in sports where the coach is richer, more talented, more recognized than all of the players. Every one of them. Did you see how Riley benched three starters and jump-started the Knicks to a 10-game winning streak? The first thing Magic will do is make players value playing time more than their paychecks.

During Wednesday's news conference, one of the first things Magic said was that eight or nine players — those playing — would love him and the other three or four would hate him, but that that was O.K. Never one of the boys anyway, distance and age have really enabled him to take a half-step back. Already, before being intro-



Magic Johnson talking after he was named Lakers coach.

duced as the newest Lakers coach, Magic called Riley, The Coach. He had already planned conversations with Bill Sharman and Jerry West.

For 12 years in the NBA and two before that at Michigan State, Magic has coached. We just called it playmaking. Through five championship seasons and four other trips to the NBA Finals, the Lakers did what Magic told them to do. They ran to this spot or that, set the appropriate screen, rotated on defense, spread the court, and whatever else based on his word, nod or scowl.

You look at the name "Lakers" down toward the bottom of the standings and it's hard to figure how this move is anything but the right move, the only move.

DENNIS THE MENACE



PESS! ARE YOU NAPPING, MR. WILSON? BECAUSE IF YOU ARE, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO WAKE YOU.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles. Write the letters in the correct order in the boxes below.

TACHY

RUFOR

METIKS

LESFAT

Answer here: ON

Yesterday's: BASSIS, EBLE, FLANNERY, PERRINS

Answer: When someone leaves, write the letters in the correct order in the boxes below.

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PEANUTS



THIS IS MY REPORT ON THE BUSINESSMAN BARBER I INTERVIEWED.

YEARS AGO, HE SAID HAIRCUTS WERE THIRTY-FIVE CENTS AND ICE CREAM CONES WERE A NICKEL.

BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR YOU, HUH, MA'AM?

BLONDIE

AND WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION, MR. GILLS?

REALLY? WHY IS IT PEOPLE GET THESE MEDICAL QUESTIONS?

LOOK OVER THERE!

WELL, PRACTICALLY NO ONE.

WIZARD of ID

THIS MAN YELLED "BOTTOMS UP" AS A TOAST TO THE KING!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

THE KING WAS ADDRESSING A NUDIST CONVENTION.

REX MORGAN

YOU CAN SMELL DR. Y. I KNOW, THE MORGANS' COOKING HOMEWORK ALL OVER THE BUILDING.

HELLO, MR. MOORE. HOW'S THE DIET GOING?

WELL, I WAS DOING FINE UNTIL I WALKED AWAY FROM NOW I'M STARVING!

DOONESBURY

SO BUNNY SHOULD YOU TRY TO GET A R. 3434? BECAUSE IT THROWS SMOKERS OUT INTO THE STREETS!

IF THIS BILL PASSES, SMOKERS WILL BE FORCED TO BATTLE THE ELEMENTS EVERY TIME THEY CHOOSE TO LIGHT UP!

THAT'S RIGHT, AND CHILL CONDITIONS IT WILL BE AGAINST THE LAW TO SMOKE INSIDE!

AND REMEMBER, ANYONE WHO VIOLATES THIS HEALTH PROBLEM! AHH-CHOO!

COULD HE BRAP-THUP BEFORE HE DIES FROM HIS PRECIOUS!

CALVIN AND HOBBES



MAN, WAS THIS CAT A PULPED? HEE HEE HEE!

YOU'RE A PINK NOBLES.

WIZARD of ID

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GARFIELD

CATS ARE CREATURES OF NATURE. WE DO THINGS BASED ENTIRELY ON...UH...

INSTINCT!

INSTINCT!

INSTINCT!

INSTINCT!

مكنا من الأصيل

SPORTS

The Germans May Be Getting Old, but They Have Some Legs Left

By Ian Thomsen

STUTTGART — The German flags were still and the Italian flags were flapping, which is always an odd sight, as if flags bear only the breeze of their own song. Their fans were singing because Italy had just gone ahead of Germany, 1-0, and for the moment they were caught up in the elementary euphoria of international soccer, of one side glumly allowing the visitors their cheer — then something on the field was happening.

Only a minute remained in the half, and any other of the World Cup finalists might have spent it rubbing the bruise and waiting to recuperate in the privacy of the changing room. Really, that kind of attitude is just an excuse to feel sorry for oneself, but the truth of it doesn't come out until you watch the Germans. They don't feel sorry for anybody.

They didn't care about the referee's stopwatch or their miserable record against Italy (five victories in 23 meetings) or their own old age or — certainly not this — the looming embarrassment of defeat at home. They were going to score. You realized none of this until something caught in the Italians' collective throat. Down below, Matthias Sammer was chasing the ball as if he had just seen it murder somebody. With a slide he dug it off the endline into the box, and in its mid-flight everyone realized what was happening, that the Germans had charged upfield when anyone else would have been moving toward the door, just as Jürgen Klinsmann was spiking the equalizer with a thump of his head.

How many champions get up from a knockdown in the

final seconds of a round, walk across the ring and make the opponent suffer for his celebration? It is unique to Germany, the world champion until someone ultimately proves better this summer. The odds grew Wednesday against everyone else.

"I'm very optimistic for the future because of this game," Klinsmann said after his second goal had completed Germany's 2-1 victory. "Now we can see that we are able to beat everyone. This is a good base for us to build on. If we play like today, we have every chance of winning the World Cup."

The Italians arrived without Roberto Baggio, European player of the year, sidelined by a knee injury. That said, the two teams parted with the understanding that nine is climbing the mountain steadily while the other is uncertain how to go from here to the A-2-1 loss at Germany is no disgrace, but the Italians were also beaten last month in Naples by nonqualifiers France.

Their direction is hard to follow. All that separates manager Arrigo Sacchi from his departed colleague, Graham Taylor of England, is a goal by Portugal last November. Had the Portuguese scored once more in their 3-0 qualifier over Estonia, they would have come to Milan a week later needing only a draw to take Italy's place in the World Cup finals.

As it was, Sacchi employed 34 players in the eight qualifying games — numbers familiar to Taylor, who experimented and experimented without solving anything. To congratulate Italy for aggressive play Wednesday is to ignore the fact that it created almost no chances for the

FIFA Chief Summoned

The Associated Press

BERN — João Havelange, the long-reigning president of international soccer's governing body, FIFA, has been summoned to discuss his contested reelection bid with the heads of the five continental federations.

The European Football Union, UEFA, on Thursday said it had convened the meeting for April 5 in Zurich. It said Havelange had agreed to attend.

Havelange, a Brazilian who has ruled FIFA since 1974, comes up for reelection this June. He faces increasing criticism by soccer officials, including U.S. World Cup organizers, for his autocratic ways.

UEFA has taken the lead in the campaign against Havelange. UEFA's own president, Lennart Johansson of Sweden, is tipped as a candidate for the job.

Havelange infuriated UEFA by announcing at a meeting in New York last month that he had unanimous support for his renewed candidacy. The Europeans said later they had not asked him to stand for reelection.

first 55 minutes. Not until the Italians trailed did they begin to assert themselves, and even if they had equalized with their five chances during a rapid 83-minute, it would not have covered up their problems. Sacchi went through 15 players, while German manager Bert Vogts

chose to make only two substitutions. "It's too difficult for the team if you change more than two," Vogts said.

With 84 days in go, who among the 12 European finalists can be expected to challenge Germany? Perhaps the Dutch can lure back Rudi Völler and overcome the loss of Marco van Basten; perhaps Brazil's victory Wednesday is an omen; perhaps the mood is right for another Denmark in surprise everyone. Or perhaps the old age of the Germans, against the inability of opponents to raise a proper threat to their crown, is not the important issue it was thought to be.

Their starting lineup included seven players from the 1990 final, among them 32-year-old captain Lothar Matthäus, since recovered from a severe knee injury, and 33-year-old fullback Andreas Brehme, the scorer of the victorious penalty four years ago who was supposed to have been retiring internationally after the 1992 European Championship loss to the Danes. Vogts has even talked of recalling 33-year-old striker Rudi Völler.

Though they did without Karlheinz Riedle, and Matthäus was staying back against the ineffective but relentless Italian pressure, the German attack flourished on the runs of Thomas Häßler and the constant chasing of Klinsmann, the lone striker and another hero of 1990. He used to play for the club in Stuttgart, and by example he convinced the others to run with him, at one point publicly embarrassing them after no one came forward to provide him support on the right side.

They might have scored five goals, but when they didn't, they were not discouraged. Two minutes into the new half

Klinsmann, always running, was ready to collect the winner when Andreas Möller's shot came off the left post.

"The German team is a tournament team," said 33-year-old midfielder Guido Buchwald. "In the tournament we can play better. This is a good start."

These, for their opponents, are the most worrisome truths of all.

A Good Start for Brazil

Bebeto scored twice to give Brazil a 2-0 victory over Argentina in their exhibition match Wednesday, the Brazilians' first win over their old enemies for five years, Reuters reported from Recife, Brazil.

An overweight-looking Diego Maradona sat on the substitutes' bench wearing the No. 11 shirt but Argentine coach Alfio Basile resisted the temptation to bring him on.

Brazil, which led from the seventh minute, played some sparkling soccer in the first 20 minutes with their playmaker Rai finally playing like his old self.

But the game degenerated after that with both sides committing a succession of cynical fouls and Argentina's players arguing almost every decision. Beбето wrapped the game up with a header in the 76th minute.

Argentina desperately needed the creativity of a fully fit Maradona in midfield and relied on individual efforts from striker Gabriel Batistuta for their best scoring chances.

Bebeto took a battering from Argentina full-back Jose Chamot, one of four Argentines and one Brazilian player to be booked.

Stojko Hits the Big Combination

Reuters

CHIBA, Japan — Elvis Stojko of Canada snatched the world men's figure skating title from France's Philippe Candeloro on Thursday with a performance bordering on the stupendous.

Stojko's knockout blow was a quadruple-triple combination jump that almost came off, close enough to earn him a perfect 6.0 from the American judge.

The quad toe loop was perfect and he landed the triple toe which followed but stumbled slightly on two feet.

Still, the other eight judges all gave him 5.9 for technique and he was first on all their cards. His performance followed a superb display by Candeloro in his "The Godfather" role, marred only by a single axel right at the end of his routine. Still, it looked good enough to win — until Stojko skated.

Viacheslav Zagorodnikov of Ukraine was third, Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov was only fourth after falling on an attempted quadruple toe loop.

Stojko's audacious move — he is the first skater ever to try a quad-triple in competition — was the fulfillment of a promise he had been making all season to attempt it in competition.

Stojko's coach, Doug Leigh, had not expected his charge to try the quad-triple.

"I expected quad-double. That's what we discussed. He made a split-second decision to try a triple. It was a great call," Leigh said. "He did quad-triple in practice this morning,

without a two-foot landing. But the quad-double was the plan. He just went for a little bit more."

The 22-year-old Canadian, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday, had the quad-triple in mind for the Olympics before opting out and finishing second. But all week here he has insisted that it would be part of his routine.

The rest of the program, in music from the film "The Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," was virtually flawless.

He began with a high triple lutz, followed by a triple axel-triple toe loop combination which he made look easy.

Four more triples followed the big move and he looked cool throughout.

"It feels pretty amazing," Stojko said. "Something like this is hard to explain. All the times I spent at the rink, the hard times when I didn't feel like going to the rink but I did anyway and I had a good day out of it. Today it truly paid off."

He landed the triple but stepped out of it. But it was not a matter of going for perfection, which can never be achieved, but for excellence, which can be achieved. That's what I was striving for," Stojko said.

Of equal satisfaction to the Canadian were his marks for artistry, including four of 5.9.

Candeloro, 22, has now been beaten by Stojko four times in a month, in the technical and free programs at the Olympics, where he was third, and at the worlds.

He was not dismayed. "There are three more

world championships before we meet again at the next Olympics so we will have many battles," he said.

On the women's side, the battle was over before it had started for Chen Lu, the Olympic bronze medalist from China.

Injury forced her out of the already depleted ranks of the women's event on Thursday.

The foot injury which has plagued the 17-year-old Chinese skater all week was finally diagnosed as a navicular stress fracture on Thursday and a Japanese doctor recommended that she undergo surgery.

He said Chen already faced six months off the ice and, without an operation, could be out for a year.

Her absence means that all three Olympic medal winners have dropped out of the event. Gold medalist Oksana Baiul has not recovered fully from the back injury sustained in a high speed practice collision at the Olympics, and runner-up Nancy Kerrigan said she was exhausted after the Olympics.

Also Thursday, the Olympic champions Oksana Grischuk and Evgeny Platov kept setting the pace in the ice dance event.

The Russians won the original dance, the second phase of the event, on the cards of all nine judges. In three dances they have been voted first by all the panel.

French couple Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy remained in second place, ahead of Finns Susanna Rahikamo and Petri Kokko.



Elvis Stojko used a quadruple-triple combo to win the men's title.

SIDELINES

U.S. Goes for a Go-Go Game

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A set of changes designed to stimulate offense and make soccer more appealing to American fans has been announced by the U.S. Soccer Federation, which is turning its developmental league into a rules laboratory.

USFF president Alan Rothenberg said that FIFA had given the go-ahead for the experiments to be conducted this season in the U.S. Interregional Soccer League. The third-division USSIFL, made up of 72 teams in 34 states from coast to coast, begins a five-month season in early April and will use its eight divisions to test different rules.

Experiments involve enlarging the goal size, punishing committers of multiple fouls, providing for free kicks and shootouts, shortening corner kicks, and changing rules involving the throw-in and use of the block in the game.

"This is a turning point for soccer in the United States," he said, noting the World Cup will be hosted here this summer and next spring will bring the launch of Major League Soccer, a first division outdoor professional league. "We want to make it more exciting, more entertaining to improve this great game."

South Africa to Host '98 Nations Cup

TUNIS (Reuters) — South Africa is to host the 1998 African Nations Cup finals after beating out Burkina Faso by 31 votes to 10 at the Confederation of African Football's congress in Tunis.

The decision on Wednesday comes less than two years after South Africa's readmission to international soccer.

"We are delighted to get this sort of recognition so quickly after our acceptance into the African fold," said Solomon Morewa, secretary-general of the South African Football Association.

Kenya's candidacy for the next edition of the Nations Cup finals in 1996 will be confirmed in September, CAF decided on Wednesday. In this year's finals, starting Saturday in Tunis, Nigeria is the favorite.

Britain's Head Track Coach Quits

LONDON (Combined Dispatches) — Frank Dick, a key figure in the success of British track and field over the last decade, announced Thursday that he was quitting as the national director of coaching.

Dick, who has held the post for 14 years, has been unhappy for some time with his salary. But what brought matters to a head was a cut in the British Athletic Federation's coaching budget.

In his resignation letter, he said the "draconian" cut would damage emerging talent and insisted: "Having progressed the coaching scheme to its present high level, I'm not willing to oversee its demise."

Earlier this month at the European indoor championships in Paris, Britain won five gold medals, despite fielding a weakened team. And last summer Britain enjoyed its best-ever world championships in Stuttgart with 10 medals, including golds for Colin Jackson, Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell.

Malaysia Suspends Coach Amid Probe

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Malaysia's national track and field coach has been suspended pending the outcome of police investigations into alleged sexual harassment of a woman athlete, the Bernama news agency reported.

An 18-year-old athlete filed charges with police earlier this month accusing national team coach C. Ramanathan of molesting her during a massage session at a training camp last October. Ramanathan has strongly denied the charges.

The Malaysian Amateur Athletics Union suspended Ramanathan at an emergency meeting, Bernama said late Wednesday night.

Upheaval Hits Austrian Ski Team

VIENNA (AFP) — Austria's World Cup skiing team was left in disarray on Thursday after the resignations of two top women's coaches and the surprise retirement of Sabine Gönner.

Women's chief Herwig Demtschar was forced out by the poor results achieved by his team since the death of Uli Maier at the Garmisch-Partenkirchen downhill in January.

"I have to accept that Herwig Demtschar does not want to continue in these conditions," said Werner Würmle, head of alpine skiing at the national ski federation.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

New York

Orlando

Miami

New Jersey

Boston

Philadelphia

Washington

Central Division

Atlanta

Chicago

Cleveland

Indiana

Charlotte

Detroit

Milwaukee

Pacific Division

Seattle

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Houston

San Antonio

Utah

Denver

Minnesota

Dallas

Southwest Division

San Antonio

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

NBA Standings

Atlantic Division

New York

Orlando

Miami

New Jersey

Boston

Philadelphia

Washington

Central Division

Atlanta

Chicago

Cleveland

Indiana

Charlotte

Detroit

Milwaukee

Pacific Division

Seattle

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Houston

San Antonio

Utah

Denver

Minnesota

Dallas

Southwest Division

San Antonio

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

NBA Standings

Atlantic Division

New York

Orlando

Miami

New Jersey

Boston

Philadelphia

Washington

Central Division

Atlanta

Chicago

Cleveland

Indiana

Charlotte

Detroit

Milwaukee

Pacific Division

Seattle

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Houston

San Antonio

Utah

Denver

Minnesota

Dallas

Southwest Division

San Antonio

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

NBA Standings

Atlantic Division

New York

Orlando

Miami

New Jersey

Boston

Philadelphia

Washington

Central Division

Atlanta

Chicago

Cleveland

Indiana

Charlotte

Detroit

Milwaukee

Pacific Division

Seattle

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

Western Conference

Midwest Division

Houston

San Antonio

Utah

Denver

Minnesota

Dallas

Southwest Division

San Antonio

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

Los Angeles

San Antonio

Dallas

NBA Standings

Atlantic Division

OBSERVER

Telephone Violence

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — As you know, the world is speeding toward a total communications breakdown even as the communications industry foolishly thumps its chest about the coming glories of the information superhighway.

Evidence amassed by our researchers leaves no doubt that the cataclysm will occur sooner than original projections indicated. Those were based on the number of telephone callers who required police attention after encountering phone-answering machines, voice-mail systems and robotic phone instructions.

In 63 percent of these incidents property damage resulted from loss of self-control by persons unable to overcome these popular devices for rendering the telephone system almost totally useless. The damage usually involved destroying phones with which callers had failed to communicate with living human beings.

In 21 percent of these destruction-of-communications-equipment cases, handguns were used on phones that had driven their users berserk. Nine percent involved rifles, shotguns or hand grenades, and 2 percent involved mortar assaults.

Twenty-seven percent of all incidents involved physical violence, including suicide by callers unable to get around answering machines or voice mail or maddened by instructions to press buttons endlessly if they wanted a mechanical voice to tell them to drop dead.

We have asked the telephone industry for statistics on the percentage of incoming calls answered on an average day by a human being. The industry continues to stonewall, insisting it doesn't have such figures.

"Our sole obligation is to make sure that any given telephone can ring every other telephone in the world at any time of the day or night, but especially in the middle of dinner," according to an artificial voice that we reached by pressing buttons 2, 7, 9, 3, 8, 2 again, and the pound sign.

Identifying itself as a spokeswoman for the miracle-of-communications enterprise, the voice said its employer had no interest in whether the ringing phone was answered by a human, a machine or, for that matter, by gunfire.

Recently, however, our teams in the field have begun collecting stories that show the end is closer than we suspected. Here is a typical story from a man we shall call Pearson.

After the customary series of failures associated with airline travel, Pearson's scheduled night flight from Cleveland to the Hartford area deposited him at New York's La Guardia Airport shortly after 1 A.M.

The airline chose to motor its wretched Hartford customers by bus to Bradley Field, arriving at approximately 3:30 A.M. Since Pearson would still face a 20-mile trip to get home after being deposited at Bradley, he thanked Heaven for the communications miracle.

"I shall simply phone my daughter Alma and ask her to drive over to Bradley, meet the four-wheel surrogate airliner at 3:30 A.M., and drive me home," Pearson said to himself.

Fitting deed to the thought at a La Guardia public phone, Pearson used his calling card to dial his home, where Alma — the hour being past 1 A.M. — was sound asleep. Very sound, as it turned out.

Pearson had his own answering machine and had programmed it to stop the phone's ringing after the fourth ring and make itself available for messages. Obeying to Pearson's command, it now did so. Alma obviously hadn't heard it.

Worse: Pearson had programmed the device so that after taking its first four-ring call, it would thereafter ring only twice before falling silent again.

Stranded at La Guardia at 1:30 A.M., Pearson realized with horror that it would be impossible to get the incessant, insistent ringing out of his phone that would be necessary to rouse Alma. His devotion to the communications miracle had made him an agent of his own destruction.

Pearson was found by the Connecticut roadside, severely frostbitten, at 5 that morning, having set out to walk home from the jitney-busport, and a number of toes had to be removed. Upon release from surgery, Pearson took an ax to his answering machine and severely damaged his thigh.

New York Times Service

Joe Queenan, the Mad Dog Movie Critic

By Janet Maslin
New York Times Service

TARRYTOWN, New York — This town is certainly picturesque, but it's not normally thought of as a place that ought to be in pictures. But here in Bella's Restaurant, where it takes work to run a check for two into double digits, Joe Queenan is sizing up the local talent.

First and foremost, there is his own: nil. Queenan freely admits to knowing absolutely nothing about how to make a movie, and to make it right here.

Queenan is the self-appointed mad dog of movie criticism, specializing in gratuitous wisecracks, ad hominem insults and exhibitionistic practical jokes.

Among his more notable stunts, many conducted for articles that appeared in the irreverent West Coast magazine *Movieline* (and newly collected in a book called "If You're Talking to Me, Your Career Must Be in Trouble," published by Hyperion), has been dressing up as Mickey Rourke and devoting an entire day to doing or saying things Rourke has done in public. "I really like this family," he claims to have told his son and daughter at 5:06 A.M., quoting Rourke in "Desperate Hours," "but you're pushing my patience."

Pushing other people's patience is another of Queenan's specialties. He conducted an experiment on heckling "The Crying Game" ("It's a guy!"). "The Love" ("Child molester!") and "Alive," the film about air crash survivors who resort to cannibalism ("You'd better marinate him first"), just to see if audiences would fight back. (They seldom did.)

In a more scientific mode, he tested the power of the auteur theory by surveying people in line at various movie theaters, asking whether they had any idea who had directed the film they were about to see. Five out of 10 "Jurassic Park" patrons could name Steven Spielberg, but two others thought the film had been directed by Stephen King.

For someone who sees much of the movie business as preposterous, what can be the next step? Spurred on by the example of Robert Rodriguez, who directed the well-received "El Mariachi" for a reported \$7,000, Queenan plans to put his own money where his mouth is. That's \$6,999 of his own money, to be precise. He thinks of undercutting the competition by \$2 as part of the fun. "Rodriguez proved that somebody could make a movie for seven grand," he explains. "I want to prove that anybody can make a movie for seven grand."

The film, which he insists will be made sometime this year, will be called "Twelve Steps to Death," and it will be a murder mystery about a psychiatrist who treats dysfunctional patients. But it is only part



Queenan says his malice is the "cheerful, life-affirming" kind.

of Queenan's game plan. He's talking past-back novelization. He's talking film festivals, and he claims to know of one in Canada that gave out five prizes when it had only two entrants. He's talking (in another nod to "El Mariachi") about putting on a Spanish-language version.

He's even talking Bella's, where most of the patrons and waitresses seem to know him, since he has a tiny office several doors away and lives within walking distance with his children and wife, Francesca Spinner (who is active in community affairs and whom he calls "one of the thousand points of light").

Queenan is back in Bella's after having completed the first part of his game plan. He has just received his first (and possibly only) official filmmaker's training, in the form of a \$279 weekend-long course on directing, held in Manhattan.

He found the course through an advertisement in the back of a movie magazine. The main theme he has learned is that much of the business of filmmaking is about money. "You need money," he says, reading from the notes he took over the weekend. "You need a phone, so you can get away from money. You need energy, so you can say no to people who want your money."

Meanwhile, he has made notes on the visual clichés he considers obligatory: "Lots of shots of feet getting out of cars. Head-butts. Frontal and rearal nudity, preferably of somebody who looks like Harvey Keitel. Someone dead apparently coming back to life, and then trying to kill somebody."

Clearly, Queenan, 43, has watched more than his share of bad movies. Another of his experiments in criticism had him renting an assortment of Part III movies — "Basket Case III," "Puppetmaster III," "The Howling III" — when he hadn't seen any of the Part I or II installments. Among the thematic insights to emerge: Authority figures in such stories often wind up being eaten by monsters.

What gives him the right to vent his malice (which he has described as "cheerful, life-affirming malice, not the noxious, downtown variety") in print and on screen? "The world is full of nice people," he says. "I'm not one of them. I don't have to be nice. Nobody ever told any of the people I admire that you have to be nice, either."

Queenan, who honed his brand of guerrilla journalism writing for the now-defunct *Spy* magazine, accepts the idea that he is sometimes shooting fish in a barrel.

"But these are fish that need shooting," he insists.

He maintains that mainstream Hollywood filmmaking is less an art than a business, and that as a sometime business writer (for publications including *Forbes* and *Barron's*), he has a right to regard it with a jaundiced eye.

"Look at the way Consumer Reports operates," he says. "Somebody comes out with a car, and the car stinks. Does Consumer Reports say, 'Gee, the guys who made the car, we'd better not hurt their feelings'? When you're writing about movies, you're writing about finance, because Lou Diamond Phillips and Melanie Griffith are commodities. And they are revenue-generating — or, in the case of Kim Basinger, revenue-losing — commodities that belong to publicly traded companies. I have a bunch of mutual funds. I'll bet you one of my mutual funds owns shares in one of these companies. Therefore, I own Kim Basinger. Therefore, if Kim Basinger makes another bad movie — which, even as we're speaking, she probably has — then I'm out just being nasty as a critic. This is my money going down the drain."

So Queenan often zeroes in on what he thinks is Hollywood's crazy way of making business decisions. "It wasn't just one person who said, 'Why don't we make a movie with Melanie Griffith where she penetrates the Lubavitcher Hasidim?'" he points out, referring to Sidney Lumet's "Stranger Among Us." "Hundreds of people may have been in on that decision, and maybe they all said, 'Yeah, that's a really, really good idea!'"

But Queenan's animus for certain movie stars goes well beyond the demands of fiscal accountability. "That's because this country has become obsessed with celebrities," he says, this time with a touch of anger. "It's gotten to the point where it's become like France just before heads started to roll. You can hire a whole publicity network to tell people that movies that aren't any good are really very good. Journalists just feed their readers this stuff as if these celebrities had real problems, and as if they had anything to say that could possibly be of use to you."

"I'm sorry, but Sting does not have any information in his possession that could improve my life. Spike Lee? Nice guy, hope he's doing well, but Spike Lee can't help anybody. I hate to raise the ugly specter of class warfare, but these people are a different class from everybody else. Their problems aren't real problems. People living in East New York or the South Bronx have survived more than enough. Arnold will ever dream of surviving. Blue-collar people like me have zero tolerance level for the problems of celebrities."

PEOPLE

The Turner to Remarry, Denies Tina's Portrayal

Like Turner, portrayed by his former wife as abusive, has announced that he will marry again. In an interview with the TV talk-show host Geri Halliwell, Turner, 62, says he will marry 31-year-old Jeannette Bassez-Turner in June. They have lived together since 1985. Turner was scathingly portrayed in Tina Turner's book and the film "What's Love Got to Do With It?" But Bassez-Turner says on the Rivera show that "the man that they portray in that movie is not the man that I'm with." Turner has admitted to beating Tina during their years together, but he says the abuse "has been exaggerated."

After a three-month self-imposed exile, Princess Diana braved the cameras Thursday, the first day of a weeklong skiing vacation in Lech, Austria. More than 40 photographers were waiting to snap her when she emerged with Prince William, 11, and Prince Harry, 9, from their hotel. Diana has carried out only one public engagement since her announcement in December that she was withdrawing from public life.

Laciano Paravotti decided to open a private performance before Prime Minister Mahatir bin Mohamad of Malaysia with the song "Paradise" because, he said, he was so taken by the country's beauty. Paravotti was invited by the prime minister to the resort island of Pulau Pangkor.

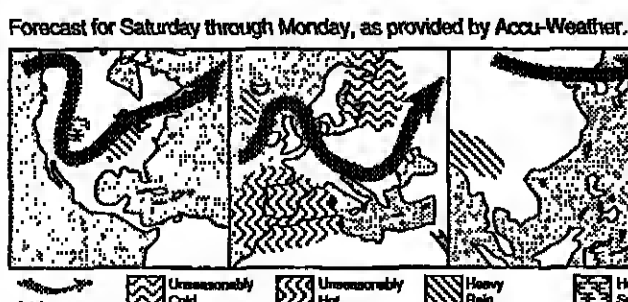
Don Henley, the lead singer of the Eagles, would say that the 1970s band would reunite "when hell freezes over." So he has announced the Eagles' reunion tour with a new release headlined, "Extra!! Hell Freezes Over." The tour, which starts on May 27, will make stops in North America, Europe and Japan. The lineup includes Henley, Glenn Frey, Joe Walsh, Don Felder and Timothy B. Schmit; Henley and Frey were members of the original group. The band broke up in 1980, and since then, Henley and Frey have feuded in public.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED
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WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Algeria	20/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8
Amsterdam	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Antwerp	14/27	3/27	3	17/22	4/28	3	17/22	4/28	3
Athens	20/28	10/20	5	21/18	11/22	5	21/18	11/22	5
Batavia	20/28	11/22	5	19/26	13/25	5	19/26	13/25	5
Berlin	17/22	8/26	3	16/21	0/22	3	16/21	0/22	3
Bombay	9/18	3/27	3	4/28	3/27	3	4/28	3/27	3
Buenos Aires	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Budapest	11/22	7/14	3	8/16	4/21	3	8/16	4/21	3
Copenhagen	4/28	1/24	3	3/27	2/25	3	3/27	2/25	3
Costa del Sol	20/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8
Dublin	9/18	1/21	3	9/16	3/27	3	9/16	3/27	3
Edinburgh	6/13	2/23	3	6/16	3/27	3	6/16	3/27	3
Frankfurt	21/17	11/22	5	18/24	7/14	5	18/24	7/14	5
Geneva	13/25	5/24	3	8/16	1/24	3	8/16	1/24	3
Helsinki	16/21	9/23	3	11/22	2/26	3	11/22	2/26	3
London	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Madrid	24/28	8/24	3	25/23	11/22	3	25/23	11/22	3
Moscow	19/26	10/20	5	17/22	8/24	3	17/22	8/24	3
Nice	12/24	3/27	3	12/24	3/27	3	12/24	3/27	3
Osaka	13/25	5/24	3	8/16	1/24	3	8/16	1/24	3
Paris	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3
Prague	15/28	5/24	3	11/22	3/27	3	11/22	3/27	3
Rome	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3
Seoul	4/28	1/24	3	3/27	2/25	3	3/27	2/25	3
Stockholm	20/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8
Taipei	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5
Tel Aviv	20/28	10/20	5	21/18	11/22	5	21/18	11/22	5
Tokyo	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Zurich	16/21	7/14	3	12/23	1/24	3	12/23	1/24	3



North America
The West Coast from Portland to San Francisco will have dry, warm weather this weekend. Monday will be milder with some sun. Very warm weather will continue over the southern Rockies Saturday and continue into Sunday. The Southeastern states will be quite warm, while locally heavy rains fall over the Ohio River Valley.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
London	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Paris	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3
Rome	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3
Madrid	24/28	8/24	3	25/23	11/22	3	25/23	11/22	3
Berlin	17/22	4/28	3	16/21	0/22	3	16/21	0/22	3
Amsterdam	14/27	3/27	3	17/22	4/28	3	17/22	4/28	3
Brussels	14/27	3/27	3	17/22	4/28	3	17/22	4/28	3
Copenhagen	4/28	1/24	3	3/27	2/25	3	3/27	2/25	3
Dublin	9/18	1/21	3	9/16	3/27	3	9/16	3/27	3
Edinburgh	6/13	2/23	3	6/16	3/27	3	6/16	3/27	3
Frankfurt	21/17	11/22	5	18/24	7/14	5	18/24	7/14	5
Geneva	13/25	5/24	3	8/16	1/24	3	8/16	1/24	3
Helsinki	16/21	9/23	3	11/22	2/26	3	11/22	2/26	3
London	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Madrid	24/28	8/24	3	25/23	11/22	3	25/23	11/22	3
Moscow	19/26	10/20	5	17/22	8/24	3	17/22	8/24	3
Nice	12/24	3/27	3	12/24	3/27	3	12/24	3/27	3
Osaka	13/25	5/24	3	8/16	1/24	3	8/16	1/24	3
Paris	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3	10/26	12/23	3
Prague	15/28	5/24	3	11/22	3/27	3	11/22	3/27	3
Rome	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3	16/21	9/23	3
Seoul	4/28	1/24	3	3/27	2/25	3	3/27	2/25	3
Stockholm	20/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8	22/21	14/27	8
Taipei	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5
Tel Aviv	20/28	10/20	5	21/18	11/22	5	21/18	11/22	5
Tokyo	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Zurich	16/21	7/14	3	12/23	1/24	3	12/23	1/24	3

Legend: p=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, h=heavy rain, s=snow, H=high, W=weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by Accu-Weather, Inc. © 1994

Asia	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Beijing	21/26	26/79	13	33/81	24/75	13	33/81	24/75	13
Bombay	10/20	16/61	3	10/20	16/61	3	10/20	16/61	3
Hong Kong	20/28	21/70	3	21/18	20/68	3	21/18	20/68	3
Manila	20/28	21/70	3	21/18	20/68	3	21/18	20/68	3
New Delhi	20/28	11/22	5	19/26	13/25	5	19/26	13/25	5
Seoul	2/25	4/28	3	2/25	4/28	3	2/25	4/28	3
Shanghai	12/24	2/26	3	10/26	3/27	3	10/26	3/27	3
Singapore	20/28	21/70	3	21/18	20/68	3	21/18	20/68	3
Taipei	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5	17/22	10/20	5
Tokyo	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3
Yokohama	11/22	3/27	3	9/16	2/26	3	9/16	2/26	3

Algeria	21/20	13/15	20/18	15/16	
Cape Town	20/21	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Harare	22/21	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Johannesburg	22/21	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Maputo	20/21	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Nairobi	20/18	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Windhoek	20/18	14/17	24/23	17/13	
Tunis	25/17	12/13	20/17	13/15	

North America					
Anchorage	1/24	-8/18	0	-1/21	-7/10
Atlanta	21/10	14/18	21/10	12/13	
Baytown	12/13	-3/29	0	9/48	-1/21
Birmingham	20/18	-1/29	0	9/48	-1/21
Denver	11/16	-1/1	0	2/26	-5/4
Detroit	19/17	-4/25	0	8/47	-1/21
Houston	20/18	-1/29	0	9/48	-1/21
Los Angeles	20/18	-1/29	0	9/47	-1/21
Manila	20/18	-1/29	0	9/47	-1/21
Mexico City	30/18	10/16	0	23/14	-2/1
Montreal	20/18	-1/29	0	9/47	-1/21
New Orleans	3/27	-2/10	0	4/39	-7/20
Newport	20/18	-1/29	0	9/48	-1/21
Phoenix	20/18	-1/29	0	9/47	-1/21
Portland	23/17	10/20	0	18/16	12/23
San Francisco	20/18	-1/29	0	9/47	-1/21
Seattle	17/11	3/21	0	17/42	4/28
Toronto	18/11	-5/24	0	14/41	-1/21
Vancouver	17/11	3/21	0	17/42	4/28